Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-010
Friday
14 January 1994

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-010 *14 January 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.
An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Chilean, Bolivian Presidents Invited to Mercosur Summit *[Montevideo Radio]* 1
Terrorist Resurgence Prompts 'State of Alert' *[Asuncion ULTIMA HORA 13 Jan]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Rejects Spain's Economic Crisis Proposal *[AFP]* 2
Havana on U.S. New NATO Position, Nuclear Agreements *[Havana Radio]* 2
PRC Rejection of Human Rights-Trade Link Noted *[Havana Radio]* 3
Robaina States Need To Adapt to Times *[Madrid EFE]* 3
Robaina Begins Cuban-Angolan Talks in Luanda *[Havana Radio]* 3
Nova Scotian PM Meets Castro; News Conference Held *[Havana Radio]* 4
Ends Visit *[Havana Radio]* 4
Unions To Debate National Finances Reorganization *[Havana Radio]* 4
Efforts in Agricultural Research Noted *[Havana Radio]* 5

Grenada

ACP Chairman Urges Regional Plan for Survival Under GATT *[CANA]* 5

Haiti

Senators Dismiss Jean-Louis, Lower Quorum to 9 *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Army Refers Diplomats' Fuel Request to Government *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Deputies Oppose Oil Distribution to Private Organizations *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
No Official Deputy Delegation To Miami Conference *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Priest Deems 'Mobilization Iron Cuts Iron' 'Necessary' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

New Trade Minister Named *[CANA]* 7

MEXICO

President Swears In New DF Attorney General *[Mexico City Radio]* 8

Chiapas Crisis

Various Sectors Greet Cease-Fire Initiative *[Madrid EFE]* 8
Peace Commissioner on Possibilty of Dialogue *[Mexico City Radio]* 9
Church Issues Document; Creates Commission *[Mexico City Radio]* 9
Defense Secretariat Reports 'Complete Calm' *[Mexico City Radio]* 10

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Cristiani Discusses Peace Accords, Police *[San Salvador Radio]* 11

FMLN Reiterates Impartiality in Chiapas Incidents *[Madrid EFE]* 12

Honduras

President Callejas Rejects Suspending General Discua *[LA TRIBUNA 11 Jan]* 12
Reina Discusses Economy, Missing Persons Report, Cabinet *[EL PERIODICO DE HONDURAS 10 Jan]* 12
Armed Forces Senior Council Communique Endorses Discua *[LA PRENSA 11 Jan]* 13

Nicaragua

National Assembly Swears In New President *[BARRICADA 11 Jan]* 14
National Assembly Sandinist Wing Elects Executive Committee *[Managua Radio]* 15

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Interior Minister Discusses Santiago del Estero Unrest *[LA PRENA 11 Jan]* 16
Shining Path Possibly Involved in Santiago del Estero Riots *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 16
Social Plan for Provinces Adopted After Security 'Alert' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 16
Alfonsin Concerned Over Military Presence at Olivos Meeting *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 17
Economic Changes Sought by Northwestern Provinces *[CLARIN 12 Jan]* 18
Internal Security Budget Allocations for 1994 Disclosed *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 18
Government Considers Canadian Wheat Import 'Closed' Matter *[CLARIN 13 Jan]* 18

Bolivia

Subversive Group, Armed Forces Links Viewed *[LOS TIEMPOS 7 Jan]* 18
Government, Coca Growers Agree on Coca Marketing *[LA RAZON 8 Jan]* 19

Brazil

Trade Unionist Believes U.S. Measures Not To Affect Brazil *[GAZETA MERCANTIL 10 Jan]* ... 19
Official Confirms Impasse in Mercosur Negotiations *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 13 Jan]* 20
President 'Irritated' by Surprise Fuel Price Increase *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 12 Jan]* .. 20
Geneva Representative Examines Advantages of GATT Approval *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 12 Jan]* 20
Ministers of Agriculture, Industry Named *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 21
Roundup of Economic Reports From 7-13 Jan *[Brasilia Radio, etc.]* 21

Chile

MNR Warns of Possible Violence During Frei Government Term *[EL MERCURIO 6 Jan]* 21
Staff Chief Reiterates Military Subordination to Government *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 7 Jan]* 22
Minister Seeks Change in Armed Forces Funding System *[ESTRATEGIA 7 Jan]* 22
Biographic Information on Frei's Three Latest Appointments *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 7 Jan]* 22
Roundup of Economic Reports Through 13 Jan *[Santiago TV, etc.]* 23

Colombia

Attorney General To Survey U.S. Military Installations *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 23
Sanin To Discuss Case of Downed Venezuelan Helicopter *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 23
Files Formal Protest With Venezuela *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 24

Ecuador

Government Refuses To Pay Debt With Commercial Banks *[Quito Radio]* 24
Police Looking for Missing Cuban Diplomat *[Hamburg DPA]* 25

Paraguay

Raul Garcete Takes Office as Attorney General *[NOTICIAS 12 Jan]* 25
Executive, Congress Reach Compromise Settlement *[ULTIMA HORA 13 Jan]* 25

Peru

Minister Says U.S. Withholding 1993 Aid Over Human Rights *[Madrid EFE]* 25
Relations To Be Resumed With Canada *[Lima TV]* 26
Roundup of Economic Reports Through 13 Jan *[EXPRESO 3 Jan, etc.]* 26

Venezuela

Reaction to Institution of Value-Added Tax 27
Caldera To Seek Suspension *[Caracas TV]* 27
President, President-Elect Comment *[Caracas TV]* 27
Caracas Mayor: VAT 'Unconstitutional' *[Caracas TV]* 27
Congressman Wants Reform *[Caracas TV]* 28
2 Die in 'Violent' Protests Against Transport Price Hike in Barcelona *[AFP]* 28
Colombia Border Troops Placed on Alert *[EL GLOBO 10 Jan]* 28
Prisoner Exchange Agreement Signed With Colombia *[Caracas TV]* 29

Chilean, Bolivian Presidents Invited to Mercosur Summit

PY1101141894 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Text] The presidents of Chile and Bolivia have been invited to the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] presidential meeting on 17 January. The Argentine delegation made the proposal. [Chilean] President-elect Eduardo Frei is also invited.

Patricio Aylwin, Sanchez de Lozada, and Eduardo Frei will hold complementary meetings with their Mercosur counterparts but they will not formally participate in the deliberations.

It is being reported in Santiago, Chile, that President Patricio Aylwin is studying the possibility of attending the summit, which will be held in Colonia on 17 January. The presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay—the Mercosur member countries—invited Aylwin and also his elected successor, Eduardo Frei, to participate.

Frei is unable to attend; he is resting following a inguinal hernia operation today. Chilean Foreign Ministry economic delegation sources told the afternoon newspaper LA SEGUNDA that Chile should send a high-ranking representation to the meeting, even though it is not a Mercosur member and clearly cannot become one.

Terrorist Resurgence Prompts 'State of Alert'

PY1301210694 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 13 Jan 94 p 8

[Article by correspondent Dolores Oliveira in Buenos Aires]

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem yesterday ordered a "state of alert" among Argentine intelligence services in light of the possibility of a subversive resurgence—like the uprising in Chiapas, Mexico—in Southern Cone countries. The president caught his main security assistants by surprise. They attributed the initiative to Menem's "intuition." There were rumors that everything began after closed door conversations with Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy in Punta del Este, Uruguay, last week. According to reports published in Buenos Aires by the morning economic newspaper EL CRONISTA, Argentine officials who accompanied Menem in Punta del Este detected a fear—particularly among members of Wasmosy's entourage—of "hit-and-run forays" across Paraguayan and Bolivian borders by—as Paraguayan politicians put it—"narcoterrorists at the service of the Sao Paulo forum."

The Sao Paulo Forum

The so-called Sao Paulo Forum was born in 1990 in the wake of a well-intentioned initiative by labor leader Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva to unify the Latin American leftist sectors and to lead them along the path of democracy, consensus, and government experience.

The Forum has already held four subsequent meetings, in Sao Paulo, Mexico, Managua, and Havana. Two irreconcilable positions emerged from within the Forum at the latest meeting in Havana. On the one hand, those who insisted on the political course. Among them were the Uruguayan Broad Front; the Brazilian labor movement; and Mexico's opposition PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], led by political scientist Jorge Castaneda—the philosophical inspirer of this Latin American leftist group. On the other hand, the hardliners refuse to give up the armed struggle and who decided "to prepare for a rebellion by the victims of the economic adjustment." This happened just two months ago, in November 1993.

An intelligence report read a few hours ago by President Menem suggests some irregularities that might include a connection among the various attempts to begin subversive activities in Argentine territory.

Cuba

Castro Rejects Spain's Economic Crisis Proposal

PA1301174894 Paris AFP in Spanish 1116 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Madrid, 13 Jan (AFP)—The newspaper EL MUNDO reported today that Cuban leader Fidel Castro has categorically rejected Spain's political-economic reform proposal, arguing that it seeks to impose pluralism and democracy on Cuba. According to EL MUNDO and as can be deduced from the report presented in the summer of 1993 to Castro by Carlos Solchaga, former Spanish economy minister, the Spanish Government advised Castro to implement a rapid transition to capitalism. According to the newspaper, Castro was also especially upset because Solchaga does not make the slightest mention of the U.S. blockade, blaming the Cuban system alone for the serious crisis affecting the island.

Carlos Solchaga's secret report recommends that Castro implement immediate reform in three areas: privatization of all commercial sectors and industries; reduction of state intervention to a minimum by introducing a market economy with a Western-style fiscal system; and allowing the free economic initiative of Cuban and foreign individuals and companies.

EL MUNDO goes on to say that Solchaga contradicts one of the Castro's main theories, according to which Cuba can overcome the crisis through the development of two profitable and well-organized economic activities—tourism and sugar sales. EL MUNDO notes, citing Solchaga's report, that "the stagnation of the remaining productive sectors would prevent the chosen sectors from developing."

In its study of the Cuban ecomony, the Solchaga report says that the Castro government has been unable to generate wealth because of political factors. In his research, Solchaga refers to the situation of the Cuban economy as disastrous, emphasizing that "galloping inflation" and "huge budget deficits" have paralyzed the country.

According to EL MUNDO, Fidel Castro is aware that the economic changes proposed by the Spanish Government and the IMF would lead to a transition to democracy and pluralism. EL MUNDO notes that time and again Castro has explained that he will never give up the Communist Party's monopoly on power. Instead, he insists that "Cuba must learn from China and Vietnam." According to Castro, Cuba's future lies in "a democratic dictatorship like the ones in China and Vietnam, which have not abandoned the Marxist-Leninist doctrine."

The document submitted by Spain has broken the usual unanimity within the Cuban system. According to EL MUNDO, Carlos Lage—in charge of the Communist Party's financial affairs and third in command—considers that the Spanish recommendation for transition is a valid option

Havana on U.S. New NATO Position, Nuclear Agreements

FL1301173694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Jan 94

["Our Opinion" commentary by Eduardo Dimas]

[Text] Every period in history has its own signs that differentiate it from former periods, and it seems to me that the signs of this particular period that has befallen us are already more than perceptible. After having won World War III without firing a shot, the United States and its allies, the winners, are hastening to collect the booty, especially the political booty. They are leaving the economic loot for later.

The problem for them at present is to keep the process taking place in the countries of the former socialist bloc—that is, the transition to capitalism—from backsliding; to channel relations with these countries along particular lines; and to diminish these countries' defensive capabilities, especially nuclear, as much as possible.

One of the NATO agreements reached at the recent summit in Brussels was to create a so-called Partnership for Peace—proposed by the United States—to receive the former members of the Warsaw Pact interested in strengthening ties to NATO, establish military cooperation, and participate in peace-keeping missions—preventive interventions, to call them by their true name. But without a timetable for new members to join NATO, it is a formula for commitment that commits to nothing.

Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic received the news with satisfaction. Russia, to which the Partnership for Peace could also extend, reacted with caution because it does not know to what extent such an association is in its national interests.

The Russian Government's caution is understandable when we bear in mind Lithuania's request also to join NATO, and the not-to-be- dismissed possibility that an anti-Russian bloc could be formed in central Europe and the Baltic republics in the future.

With the creation of the Partnership for Peace, the United States and its allies subordinate the former socialist countries in military matters without offering them anything. That is, they place them in a kind of transitional period with no set limit, a period during which they are guaranteed consultations and cooperation but not security. On the other hand, that intermediate position is an invitation to comply with whatever orders they are given, so as to win entry into NATO.

Another sign of the times is the policy designed to disarm the former enemies. The entire nuclear arsenal of the former USSR is concentrated in four former Soviet republics: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. The objective of the United States and its allies is that Russia alone maintain a limited nuclear capability. They have promised the others economic and technical aid if they agree to destroy their arsenals. In a statement on 11

January in Brussels, U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that his country, Russia, and Ukraine would be signing an agreement under which Ukraine relinquishes its nuclear arsenal of 176 intercontinental ballistic missiles and (?1,500) nuclear warheads. Indeed, Clinton visited Kiev yesterday before going to Moscow for three days of meetings with Boris Yeltsin. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk is invited to participate. The agreement is to be signed tomorrow [14 January].

As will be recalled, the Ukrainian Parliament conditioned ratification of the strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty, known by its U.S. acronym "START I," to the attainment of certain guarantees of security and economic compensations.

If what has been agreed on is accomplished, Ukraine would cease to be a nuclear power, which the western nuclear powers—the United States, France, and Great Britain—would like very much. These nations seek disarmament for everyone but themsel es.

I cannot fail to recall the second half of the decade of the forties, the post-war period, when the United States had a monopoly on nuclear weapons and blackmailed the whole world with it. Will the same thing happen again? I don't doubt it. The United States will do so if it furthers its hegemonic interests.

This 13th NATO summit was a big success for the great powers, especially for the United States. Simply put, the world moved in a single direction and they are now reaping the fruits. This is a sign of the current period. I wonder: for how long?

PRC Rejection of Human Rights-Trade Link Noted

FL1301174894 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1503 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman (Hu Hiangming) has affirmed that it is up to the Chinese people alone to comment on the human rights situation in the PRC. The Chinese Government, in this way, responded sharply to reports from officials in Washington who link trade between the two countries to the internal situation of the PRC. The United States has reduced to 35 percent its imports of textiles from China, and now there is talk at the White House of withdrawing China's trade status as a Most Favored Nation, according to a report from PRENSA LATINA.

Business is business, stressed the Foreign Ministry spokesman, recalling that the PRC has achieved remarkable successes since it was founded in 1949, especially with the reforms put into practice in the past 15 years—which has been acknowledged internationally.

Robaina States Need To Adapt to Times

PA1401012394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1743 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (EFE)—In an interview published today in the newspaper EL SOL DE MEXICO, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina stated that Cuba faces the challenge of surviving and adapting to new times without renouncing its revolutionary goals. Cuba has carried out "a social project for more than 30 years. It has overcome imbalanced trade situations and all those misconceptions about one's worth," Robaina stated.

Over the past years, according to the foreign minister, the Cuban Government has made important reforms, above all in economic aspects. Such reforms are not contrary to the revolution, because the word itself signifies change and "this country has been changing and revolutionizing since I learned how to reason."

Robaina told the Mexican newspaper that over the past months "we saw the need to decriminalize the dollar and we did so. In agriculture we decided to turn over the state lands to the people so that they could make them productive." He added that in the future they might make other decisions "which cannot even be conceived now, because life dictates necessities and one must have a fresh and agile mind to adapt to new circumstances, no matter how hard it may seem."

The Cuban foreign minister said that "the same generation that staged the Moncada attack has headed the attack on the new times, which demonstrates its revolutionary capability, its constant renewal, and the profound, enriched, and expert thinking of a group that is capable of directing changes without losing the essence."

Robaina reiterated that Cuba is not willing to lose any of its achievements. He stressed that "our independence, our sovereignty, and our capability to speak with our own voice cannot be modified." Personally, he said, he would like to be able to emerge from the difficulties soon, "so that reason will prevail once and for all and the United States will lift the economic, commercial, and financial blockade to which we have been subjected."

The foreign minister explained his wish to request that "the pressures be lifted, so that we can rejoin a more fair and equitable world economy, so that our people can again enjoy the standard of living which it had before the special period, and so that it can achieve much more."

Robaina Begins Cuban-Angolan Talks in Luanda

FL1301223894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived in Luanda today on a two-day official visit during which he will discuss with Angolan authorities the future relations between the two countries. During his stay in Angola, Robaina will be received by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. He also will meet with Prime Minister Marcolino Moco and the president of the parliament, Franca Van Dunem. Also on the agenda is a meeting with the Cuban community in Angola, which numbers some 300 people.

Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio da Moura said in Luanda today that it is a privilege for his country to have, as its first visitor in 1994, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. Upon beginning the official talks between the two leaders today, da Moura stressed that Robaina's presence comes at a moment particularly difficult for the Angolan people because of the war led by the opposition group UNITA. Speaking of relations with Cuba, the Angolan foreign minister said that despite these difficulties, his country intends to work to strengthen the ties of cooperation that Angola has historically had with Cuba.

For his part, Robaina said that his visit to Angola is part of a diplomatic offensive in a changing world in which the Cuban authorities are searching for the appropriate milieu for Cuba.

Nova Scotian PM Meets Castro; News Conference Held

FL1301195894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met yesterday with Nova Scotian Prime Minister John Savage and the delegation accompanying him. In a news conference today, the Canadian political figure talked about this fruitful exchange. Journalist Elia Sardina has details:

[Begin recording] [Translator, speaking Spanish] Last night, we all met with the president at Government Palace. We had a reception and meeting that lasted three and a half hours. We talked about everything—from trade, trade, trade, to the environment, to the role of the government in international development. We analyzed many things at that meeting.

[Savage, in English] And we had some far-ranging discussions on a variety of issues. It was a wonderful evening.

[Translator] But then we had discussions on an enormous variety of topics. It was a marvelous evening, greatly appreciated by our entire delegation.

[Savage, in English] This is the first visit by a Nova Scotian prime minister for 17...[rephrases] any Canadian prime minister for 17 years, I understand.

[Translator] I understand this is the first visit by the prime minister of any Canadian province in 17 years.

[Savage, in English] And I must say that it was, from our point of view and from the view of our business people, it was very worthwhile.

[Translator] And I can assure you that, from my point of view and from the point of view of my entire delegation, it was a visit that was clearly worthwhile. [end recording]

Nova Scotian Prime Minister John Savage termed very successful the intensive exchanges and talks between the delegation and its Cuban counterparts.

Regarding the results obtained, he said agreements having to do with the fishing industry have been signed and there will be tourist industry exchanges with the idea of forming joint Canadian-Cuban enterprises [empresas mixtas] for the construction of hotels. There is also a project to set up a detergent and soap factory, investments in the timber and coal industries, and the marketing of motor vehicles. These first agreements involve an investment of approximately $2 million. Savage is to meet this afternoon with Acting Foreign Minister Nicolas Rodriguez.

Ends Visit

FL1301221794 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Nova Scotian Prime Minister John Savage has ended his business trip to Cuba following last night's meeting with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Savage and Castro talked about trade, ecology, and international development. Savage, who was accompanied to the meeting by a large number of businessmen representing 17 Nova Scotian companies, said that it was a beautiful evening and our delegation enjoyed it. During their stay in Cuba, which the prime minister described as very successful, several trade agreements were reached and plans for Canadian funded mixed enterprises in the fields of industry, agriculture, tourism, and services were made. The trip was advantageous, profitable, and worthwhile, John Savage said. Savage was elected prime minister of Nova Scotia in May. He ran on the Liberal Party ticket.

John Savage, a doctor and the first Canadian provincial prime minister to visit Cuba in the past 17 years, described Fidel as a very hospitable and vigorous man and very knowledgeable politician. After commenting on the topics broached with Fidel, the Canadian official said that it was an interesting and easy-going meeting which was greatly enjoyed by the two of them.

Meanwhile, Dr. (Patricia Lang), president of (Lang-Everett Consulting Company), said that she was very pleased with the meeting with Fidel. (Lang) said that Fidel truly impressed her. (Lang) added: I have met with many prominent politicians and I have worked in many countries, but I had never found a world leader who was so knowledgeable about the topics of the environment and sustainable development.

Unions To Debate National Finances Reorganization

PA1301180194 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Roberto Morejon commentary from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Soon, Cuban unions will start debating the need to implement policies to reorganize national finances and to increase efficiency in all economic sectors. The fact that 485,000 grass-roots leaders are the first to receive training to better organize discussions at work centers reflects the labor leadership's interest in [words indistinct]. Workers will voice their opinions on the viability of planned economic

measures at open and democratic assemblies. The implementation of such measures or others has been postponed until a national consensus is reached.

In recent years, the population has created an excess cash flow that amounts to 10 billion pesos because of a smaller product supply. This resulted in a lack of motivation, work inefficiency, and a thriving black market.

In addition, the state operated with a budget deficit estimated at 4.2 billion pesos by late 1993 because expenditures exceeded treasury revenues. The financing of education, health, and social security increased the budget deficit because Cuba did not have access to international loans.

Cuban workers, therefore, will voice their opinions on the best ways to reorganize national finances, such as the possibility of establishing a tax system and reducing or eliminating subsidies for family basket products and channeling those funds to people who have lower incomes.

At union assemblies supported by their leadership, Cuban workers will suggest ways to face current irregularities, such as the fraudulent accumulation of personal wealth. Cuban unions will also discuss the fact that certain workers are not working as efficiently as their positions require. Meanwhile, there are people who reach legal employment age but turn down job offers because they think such jobs do not match their educational level.

Cuban unions will also discuss costs, profitability, efficiency, and productivity at these meetings, which seek to become another forum for collective reflection, just as the Cuban parliament already is.

Efforts in Agricultural Research Noted

PA1301224594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 94

[Report by Mario Munoz; from the "Evening Information Review" news program]

[Text] Under the present Cuban situation, the more than 5,000 employees who work at the Agriculture Ministry's 19 research centers have the responsibility to ensure that their efforts lead to less costly production and a bigger variety of crops with better quality and greater resistance. All this should be accomplished using less resources.

During 1993 research in the Cuban agricultural sector was aimed at faster implementation of production results and the promotion of scientific projects that would replace imports and attract foreign exchange.

The research centers carried out 79 scientific projects. Fifty of those projects were praised for their importance, and six received the Cuban Academy of Science's 1993 prize for the most important research projects of the year.

At a science and agricultural workers' meeting, Carlos Temprano, the official in charge of scientific activity in the agricultural sector, referred to the goals of researchers for the current year:

[Begin Temprano recording] They must help increase production and efficiency through Agriculture Ministry programs by promoting results and physical-technical activities. These activities should be promoted with less effort, more integration, and better quality in the areas of production and service, which the various research institutions are tasked with helping.

We must increase the scientific and technical level of researchers, professionals, and technicians from the science and technical units and those who work in productive organization and technical services at all levels within the institutions. We must attract foreign exchange and local currency to solve the most basic needs of the institutions. We must also reduce spending and meet financial plans. We must perfect the system to introduce results that promote mechanisms that will adjust this task to new conditions of production in our country's agriculture. [end recording]

It became evident at the meeting that there is a need for a better link between the research system and productive activity. It also became evident that scientists must enlarge the small work force existing in our fields. Scientists must also focus their research on initiatives that will result in the lowest fuel consumption possible.

Scientists who are linked to agricultural tasks agreed that, in view of Cuba's difficult situation, their research centers must seek their own financing by offering advice and training to interested institutions; all this must be done taking into consideration the high level of Cuban professionals.

Grenada

ACP Chairman Urges Regional Plan for Survival Under GATT

FL1301230694 Bridgetown CANA in English 1659 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, 13 Jan, CANA—The chairman of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group, Grenada's Agriculture Minister George Brizan, has called on the collection of developing states to work out their own arrangement for survival in the face of the challenges posed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"We in the Caribbean and in the ACP have to put our heads together to fashion out a package for the losers as a result of the new GATT arrangement," he told Parliament.

He said that only four countries in Latin America stand to benefit from the new trading agreement.

Brizan's comments came on the heels of a statement by the president of the United Nations General Assembly,

Guyana's Samuel Insanally, who paid his first official visit to Grenada, urging the region to make its presence felt in international affairs.

He told government and private sector officials in St. George's the region had the opportunity and the scope for shaping international events.

Brizan spoke during debate on Grenada's 278 million dollar (one EC dollar - 37 US cents) budget, which allocated 30 million Eastern Caribbean dollars to agriculture.

Brizan said the region stands to lose under international trading agreements such as GATT.

"There will be winners and losers and countries in the Caribbean will be, unfortunately, losers in the GATT," Brizan said.

He told Parliament: "So far, neither in theory nor in international policy has anything been done to address the case of losers as a result of this GATT agreement."

He criticised the attitude of developed countries and international lending agencies toward smaller states, particularly those dependent on agricultural production for survival.

The Grenadian agriculture minister said the region would be unable to provide for its people if its special needs and concerns were not taken into account.

Haiti

Senators Dismiss Jean-Louis, Lower Quorum to 9

FL1301134694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Return to the starting point at the Haitian parliament or, at least, at the Senate of the Republic, where bicephalism is back to its feet. On the afternoon of 11 January, six Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] senators joined the senators elected on 18 January to dismiss the president of the Senate, Senator Firmin Jean-Louis. Grand'Anse Sen. Bernard Sansaricq said President Jean-Louis' management is at the root of the threat of dissolution of the Haitian parliament brandished today by the far Right. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, during this session at the Senate of the Republic, there was also the issue of setting the quorum at nine instead of 11 [senators]. After much discussion, the participants in this session adopted a resolution read by Sen. Osny Eugene, one of the parliamentarians elected 18 January.

[Begin Sansaricq recording, in Creole] We know that the Senate of the Republic must remain the champion of democracy and freedom that it is. As a Haitian, I was saddened to hear that 200 people in Cite Soleil had lost their homes. Their houses were burned because the Senate was not there to do its job, because the far Right was able to go into the streets. In this respect, I personally accuse President Firmin Jean-Louis. If the Senate had been there to assume its responsibilities beside and leading the Haitian Army, the Army would not have let that happen in Cite Soleil. [end recording]

This was Sen. Bernard Sansaricq in his intervention on 11 January at this session of the Senate of the Republic, a session in which the National Front for Change and Democracy members did not participate. We spoke of the resolution adopted at the Senate of Republic on 11 January by the ACP senators and the parliamentarians elected 18 January. The resolution set the quorum at nine instead of 11. Let us listen to this resolution as read by Sen. Osny Eugene.

[Begin Eugene recording] Article 1. In order to have at our disposal new and sufficient statutory provisions to allow us to face the serious climate of the times, the provisional quorum of the Senate is hereby set at nine members.

Article 2. The Senate Office formed by acclamation on Tuesday, 10 August, 1993 is and remains dismissed as of today.

Article 3. A new Senate Provisional Office called the Office of the Safeguard of National Sovereignty and Public Safety, designated by the acronym BSNP, is constituted. The mission of BSNP is: first, urgently to proceed to elect a final Office; second, to ensure that the interests of the Senate of the Republic that is now endangered are safeguarded; third, expressly to address a copy to all those—including civilian, military, parliamentary authorities, or individuals—concerned by the present Resolution. [end recording]

Army Refers Diplomats' Fuel Request to Government

FL1301143394 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] The ambassadors of the four countries friendly to Haiti are soliciting the Army's collaboration in facilitating the distribution of fuel. The diplomats, representing the United States, France, Canada, and Venezuela, invited General Cedras to create an adequate environment within the framework of the implementation of the humanitarian operation.

Specifying in a letter that they were not soliciting security assistance, the four expressed a desire for the full cooperation of the authorities charged with security in order that the staff in charge of this agreement may encounter no obstacle in accomplishing its tasks. A clear warning was therefore sent. Any obstacle to the distribution of humanitarian fuel would hinder the ability of the international community to send food and medications to the most deprived population, reads this letter from the four ambassadors to Gen. Cedras.

The Army responded to the Group of Four. Regarding full cooperation concerning the distribution of the fuel,

Gen. Cedras referred the Group of Four diplomats to the government. Such cooperation, writes the Army chief, can be defined and ordered only by the government, which will give the necessary instructions to the specialized services of public administration, unquote. [no beginning quote as heard] Gen. Cedras, however, promised security for the unloading and distribution of the fuel. The Army could not escape its essential duties of maintaining order and assuring public safety, he writes in answer to the letter from the ambassadors of the four friendly countries.

Deputies Oppose Oil Distribution to Private Organizations

FL1301145594 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Opinions regarding the method to be used for the distribution of oil products continue to multiply. A group of 20 deputies thinks that this fuel, designated humanitarian, must be put at the service of the people only and must not constitute a weapon for manipulation by foreigners. The group accuses the international community of exacerbating the situation by wanting to deliver humanitarian products to nongovernmental organizations who would be the only beneficiaries, at the expense of the people.

No Official Deputy Delegation To Miami Conference

FL1301152494 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] The House of Deputies will not send an official delegation to the Miami conference planned by President Aristide. Deputies are free to attend on their own behalf.

Priest Deems 'Mobilization Iron Cuts Iron' 'Necessary'

FL1301221094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] The arrival of the humanitarian fuel tanker continues to cause much comment in Haitian circles. Father Yvon Massac opposes the arrival of this tanker in Haiti, as it is tangible proof of the hypocrisy of the international community in the Haitian crisis. Father Massac deems the mobilization "iron cuts iron" launched by President Aristide necessary in order to prevent the deterioration of the country's situation.

[Begin Massac recording, in Creole] The hypocritical moral standards of the international community want to paralyze Aristide by advocating the ideal of nonviolence, an ideal which is making him shirk his responsibilities as head of state. The country's constitution gives the president the duty of ensuring the good functioning of the state, of having all citizens enjoy justice, safety, and the rights conferred on them by the country's fundamental law. The president must create the necessary conditions so the institutions can function. The international community is making hypocritical statements. They are setting traps under the cover of humanitarian aid while people are dying. Can the president continue to stand aside while his people are being pulled down in Haiti? No! Self-defense must be organized. The president and the Haitians in the 10th department [abroad] must set up a force in the field so as to prevent the criminals from doing what they want with people. [end recording]

This was Father Yvon Massac, Fermathe parish priest.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

New Trade Minister Named

FL1301212294 Bridgetown CANA in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, 13 Jan, CANA—St Vincent and the Grenadines minister of trade and consumer affairs, Johnathan Peters, has been relieved of his ministry and placed on leave until month-end, Prime Minister James Mitchell has announced.

Mitchell, in a statement released by the Government Information Service, said Peters, who has been in the United States since early December, will now be a minister without portfolio while Bernard Wyllie, formerly parliamentary secretary in the Communications and Works Ministry, takes over the Trade Ministry.

Wyllie was sworn in midday Thursday as trade and consumer affairs minister.

Mitchell said Peters had asked for an extension of time to conduct urgent personal business in the US after he had concluded official business there last October.

Peters is said to be sorting out problems with the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service and Mitchell said although he was assured Peters would be returning home it was apparent he was not likely to return soon.

"When his leave is up, I will address the matter further," Mitchell said.

Peters, a former ambassador to the United Nations, was brought home to contest the 1989 general election and won the north central Windward seat for the ruling New Democratic Party, which took all 15 seats.

Mitchell said he had asked the north central Windward parliamentary representative, Allan Cruickshank, and his north Windward colleague, Monty Roberts, to see after Peters' constituency "for the time being."

President Swears In New DF Attorney General

PA1401044294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 14 Jan 94

[From the "Vector 21" newscast]

[Text] Correspondent Elizabeth Diaz Otero reported that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari appointed Humberto Benitez Trevino as new Attorney General in the Federal District [DF] of Mexico and our reporter Jesus Cazasola has been closely following the swearing-in. Go ahead Jesus:

[Cazasola] Yes, Ana Patricia, good afternoon. Both the rulers and the ruled must be subject to the empire of the law. No one should act beyond the law because the country's conditions so demand. Humberto Benitez Trevino said this after being sworn in as new DF attorney general. He said there will be no truce for crime and added that no economic or human resources will be spared to guarantee the security the people of Mexico City demand. He said he will act with energy wherever there is impunity.

Humberto Benitez Trevino took over from Rene Gonzalez de la Vega who in turn was appointed deputy prosecutor for preliminary enquiries [sub-procurador de averiguaciones previas] for the Attorney General's Office.

The new DF attorney general said that the firm hand of the law will be wherever impunity is detected. He also called on the institution's public servants to act strictly according to the Constitution, otherwise the corresponding punishment will be applied.

Chiapas Crisis

Various Sectors Greet Cease-Fire Initiative

PA1301222194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1719 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Jan (EFE)—Various Mexican political and intellectual sectors welcomed President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's decision to order a cease-fire in the southern State of Chiapas to encourage dialogue with the rebel forces.

Presidential candidates for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), National Action Party (PAN), and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) viewed the announcement of an Armed Forces unilateral truce with satisfaction.

Luis Donaldo Colosio, PRI presidential candidate in the upcoming August elections, stressed that what is important at this moment is that the Indians' human rights and lives be respected. In an allusion to Chiapas, he also hoped "that this cease-fire will be permanent so that we can find peaceful solutions to the problems that afflict this area that is so dear to Mexicans."

PRD presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said that the cease-fire is only the first step that should be taken to reestablish peace and recommended that both sides "confine to quarters" their troops to achieve conditions for dialogue. "What should be done now is to declare amnesty for everyone, release prisoners, guarantee medical attention for the wounded, and appoint a governor who has the backing and consensus of the people of Chiapas," added Cardenas. The unilateral truce announcement was, according to Cardenas, the result of pressure exerted by various sectors of society that had demanded a rapid political solution to the conflict.

PAN (the country's second electoral force) presidential candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos believes that Salinas de Gortari has made a "sensible decision," a decision that all political groups agreed with from the beginning. Likewise, he wants conditions rapidly established that will solve the root cause of the insurrection, such as attention to the historical problems of the area and many others "where bullets have not talked." Fernandez de Cevallos called on his electoral rivals to "abstain from actions and behavior that in some way could imply opportunism or be offensive to the people of Chiapas and society in general."

The Permanent Agrarian Congress, which groups together 11 peasant organizations, gave its support to the president's decision and defined it as "a firm step to attain peace."

Saul Gonzalez, chairman of the Grand Commission of the Senate, believes that the dialogue between the insurgent Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) and the government will have to take place under conditions of equality and flexibility. In addition, he said, the bases should be laid so that the rebels can reenter national political life with the political party that best responds to their beliefs.

Political expert Pablo Gonzalez Casanova said that it is a mistake to think that the Chiapas conflict can be resolved in the short term, although he believes that the government decreed cease- fire is a positive event in the search of peace. Gonzalez, who is in Ocosingo, one of the villages most affected by the clashes, said that the recent cabinet changes show that at last there have been deeds rather than words in Mexico.

Monday's government changes included the dismissal of Government Secretary Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco and the appointment of Manuel Camacho Solis, up to now foreign secretary, to the post of peace and reconciliation commissioner to Chiapas.

According to various analysts, President Salinas de Gortari's decision to decree a cease-fire is the first concrete step to act politically in the Chiapas armed conflict, abandoning the military option after proving its uselessness in resolving the crisis.

Peace Commissioner on Possibilty of Dialogue

PA1301215694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1925 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Report by Juan Carlos Santoyo from San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas State; from the "Vector 21" newscast]

[Excerpts] Good afternoon to all our listeners. Manuel Camacho Solis, special commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, held a news conference this morning. He said peace will not be achieved with sketchy information. Hence, peace will be achieved with a dialogue and, above all, with understanding, he said.

He admitted that yesterday and today he received some messages concerning the possibility of holding a dialogue with the members of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]. However, we have yet to confirm that these messages are from a person who truly represents this armed group, he emphasized.

Manuel Camacho Solis also said the following:

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] Yesterday and this morning I received one or two messages through certain persons in different parts of the country. The first signs of the possibility of a communication have appeared, but we have a big responsibility. We must cooperate so the tranquillity generated yesterday is used to take a new step toward the achievement of peace.

We will not achieve this with poor communications, an error in the dialogue, or without taking into consideration the context of the region and the region's relationship with the rest of Mexico. What do I mean by this? I mean there is an organization, the EZLN—a political, military, ideological, and united organization. Any error in communication through a false mediator, someone who does not truly represent the EZLN positions could preclude the possibility of really establishing a communication. [end recording]

Manuel Camacho Solis said various issues must be taken into consideration in these negotiations, above all the culture and customs of all these persons. In addition, Chiapas is a mosaic of culture, he said; adding that, for example, the word agreement and the word peace do not mean the same—or do not have the same significance—for any of the Indian communities in the region. Therefore, the goal must be mainly to achieve harmony. He added that the doors are open for a dialogue but, he emphasized, they are not open for opportunism.

The news conference was also attended by San Cristobal Bishop Samuel Ruiz. He said Mexico is currently afflicted by an endemic disease and will not be cured by the first dose of medicine. It requires an in-depth treatment which truly takes into consideration what occurs in this universe, rather than only in Chiapas, because Chiapas is not only part of the Mexican territory, Chiapas is also an essential part of the country. He said that backwardness and all the problems that have prevailed must be analyzed point by point and part by part. [passage omitted]

A march was scheduled for noon today, organized by various communities in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. We saw many children carrying signs that ask the EZLN to put down their weapons and emphasizing the state wants peace and harmony.

Also, a news conference held by representatives of the Mexican Bishops Conference ended a few minutes ago. It was, obviously, attende? by Monsignor [Adolfo] Suarez Rivera, president of the Mexican Bishops Conference, who issued an appeal to the people urging them to open their eyes because Mexico is now a different country. He said the armed conflict in Chiapas has awakened a hidden Mexico. Suarez Rivera emphasized that Mexico must undergo changes in its government structures, its society, and its Catholic Church.

Church Issues Document; Creates Commission

PA1301171194 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Report by Antonio Barragan from the "Vector 21" newscast]

[Text] The Mexican Episcopal Conference has formed a commission that is not intended to have any legal weight but to give moral support in the efforts toward reconciliation and peace in Chiapas State. This commission is composed of two archbishops and five bishops and will be headed by Adolfo Suarez Rivera, who is the president of the Episcopal Conference and archbishop of Monterrey.

Monsignor Ramon Godines Florez, the bishops' official spokesman, announced the creation of the commission when he explained the Episcopal Conference's stand on the Chiapas case. The Conference's position was presented in an eight-point document, which we will mention later on. Godines Florez basically commented on the cease-fire implemented in Chiapas by order of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

[Begin Godines Florez recording] It seems the suspension of the bombings and cease-fire are very important measures. We wish it was already in effect in order to begin a dialogue and seek reconciliation and peace. [end recording]

Godines Florez also mentioned the appointment of Manuel Camacho Solis as the commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas. He said that despite everything one must view this appointment with optimism because of Camacho Solis' great virtues as a mediator.

Monsignor Godines Florez noted that the NAFTA text must be reviewed because it was negotiated behind the backs of the peasants and Indians, who know nothing about it. He said such a situation could result in more problems in the long run.

With regard to the Episcopal Conference's position, I will sum up the eight-point document for you:

Point 1: The reason for violence in Chiapas is the misery, neglect, and scorn the peasants and Indians of that state and of other parts of the country are experiencing.

Point 2: We reject violence and the use of armed uprisings as a path to resolving true problems, such as misery and injustice.

Point 3: We think it is wrong and harmful that, in addition to adding suffering to their poverty, groups insist on a class struggle.

Point 4: We know it is not inherent of Indian cultures to attack adversaries because they have taught us hospitality and respect for human life.

Point 5: It would be belittling for the Mexican Army to commit excesses in fulfilling its duty when its duty is to work for the security and freedom of the Mexican people.

Point 6, which I believe is one of the most important points and one that the bishops mentioned last: In the face of accusations or suspicions that the church in San Cristobal las Casas, quote, encourages the armed uprising, unquote, the church stresses that if any Catholic Church member, by subjective conviction, decides to join the armed struggle, this is done independently from the mission they accepted as catechists. In any case, an accusation must not be based on assumptions but must be thoroughly proven.

The Chiapas bishops have consistently urged the rebels to change their behavior and act as Jesus taught us in the Gospel. We cannot accept such accusations against priests, nuns, or the bishop himself. We are certain the bishop has always condemned violence, but he has also reported the misery that, in this case, is caused by abuses in power and structures that must be changed.

These are six of the eight points. There are two more points. Point 7 states we are living an important moment in our country's history. It adds we must all change our attitudes.

Point 8 says: In conclusion, we urge everyone to pray, which is the force that changes our hearts in accordance with God's will.

With regard to the appointment of Camacho Solis as head of the Commission for Peace and Reconciliation in Chiapas, it notes all Mexicans must support the initiatives started by this commission.

Defense Secretariat Reports 'Complete Calm'

PA1401015694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Report by Jesus Cazasola; from the "Vector 21" newscast]

[Text] The National Defense Secretariat reported that in compliance with presidential orders, troops operating in upper Chiapas State to counter action by law breakers have concentrated in the villages or towns of Rancho Nuevo, San Cristobal de las Casas, Ocosingo, Altamirano, near Las Margaritas, Comitan, Chanal, San Juan Chamula, and Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas State.

The military personnel continue to perform social work in some of these communities, especially water and food distribution chores, as well as the distribution of other primary articles.

The Mexican Army soldiers continue to patrol the various communities to prevent possible attacks on the residents. Up to now no armed group has been seen. The National Defense Secretariat report concludes by stating that there is complete calm.

El Salvador

Cristiani Discusses Peace Accords, Police

PA1301183594 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1650 GMT 12 Jan 94

[News conference by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani with foreign and domestic correspondents and an unidentified moderator at the Central American Villa where the Fifth Central American Games athletes will be lodged; broadcast in progress—live relay]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified reporter] ...if the government does not give them a salary increase they may go on strike.

[Cristiani] The Fifth Central American Games have already begun. We believe it is quite clear that sports can serve as an example of Central American brotherhood and what characteristics all good citizens require. Obviously, as Salvadorans, we hope our team wins the upcoming games. We, however, will be satisfied if all participants do their best.

Once a year we review salary policies, and this is being studied right now, as it has been done in previous years. I really cannot see how they [public workers] can justify asking for salary increases after just three months since their last increase, or how they can then threaten to go on strike if no increases are granted. I believe this is mainly politically motivated. I believe public workers should trust the fact that every year salary policies have been reviewed, and this will also be the case this year. Nevertheless, we do not yield to these sort of pressures—politically motivated pressures. I repeat, I do not think that this is proper just three months since the last increase.

[Moderator] Mario Jovel from the "Up to Date" newscast [San Salvador Canal Doce Television].

[Jovel] Mr. President, yesterday Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] Director Dr. Augusto Ramirez Ocampo said that there were delays in the peace accords regarding land transfers and the reinsertion of former fighters into civilian life. What are the problems or difficulties, and might they not cause some sort of conflict?

[Cristiani] No, they definitely cannot create any sort of conflict. Although there might be delays, these are not new delays but a delay that has existed right from the start. You may have heard all of the reasons for the delays in implementing certain programs, but we are expediting things as much as possible. I believe Dr. Ramirez Ocampo said that although there are delays, the process continues to move ahead. This does not necessarily mean there are problems.

[Moderator] Carlos Dominquez, Megavision.

[Dominguez] Good morning, Mr. President. I have two questions. The first one: Yesterday we heard statements by the Ombudsman for Human Rights, as a member of the special commission investigating the illegal armed groups, when he mentioned certain delays to get organized. We would like to first hear your views on what the government is able to do for this commission to begin its work.

[Cristiani] We have said this commission is autonomous and that any delays are not the fault of the government, and we have not received any requests. We have clearly stated that we will help with anything the Joint Commission requests from the government, provided it is within our means. We have no influence whatsoever with what happens within the Joint Commission, and, therefore, this is their business. What the ombudsman should do is try to expedite things within the commission. It is not that the government is delaying things; we are keeping our hands out of it. Whatever they do is up to them. They may request something, but, I repeat, nothing has been asked of us up to now.

[Dominguez] Thank you, Mr. President. The other question is: we want to have your official confirmation on what is being unofficially mentioned or rumored regarding the alleged arrest of four Salvadorans in the clashes in Chiapas State, Mexico.

[Cristiani] We have not received any official report; these are press reports. The Mexican Government has not officially reported about them.

[Moderator] Jaime Atencio, Cadena Sonora.

[Atencio] Good morning, Mr. President. My question is this: This morning National Civilian Police [PNC] representatives in La Union reported the presence of Honduran troops in the village of Poloros. What is the government doing about it? Does the government know about this?

[Cristiani] We have permanent contact with the Honduran Government through our Foreign Ministry, and the first thing one does in these cases is to investigate to see what the facts are and then try and resolve it somehow through diplomatic channels. We believe this is the way to resolve these problems and not allow this to become a bigger problem. It is the Foreign Ministry that resolves these problems.

[Moderator] William Hernandez from LA PRENSA GRAFICA.

[Hernandez] Do you have confirmed reports on these troops?

[Cristiani] We have received reports from citizens. I, at least, have not received an official report from the PNC on recent cases or, rather, cases from yesterday. Prior to that, we had received reports from Salvadorans who have said that there have been Honduran troops in what is considered Salvadoran territory. Part of the problem is that many of the people do not really know where the border lies following The Hague ruling. Sometimes this may lead to confusion or to the belief that something is in our territory when in fact it is not so. In turn, it is

necessary to open an investigation. Of course, it is clear that Poloros is Salvadoran, and this will have to be fully investigated and worked out through the Foreign Ministry.

[Moderator] William Hernandez of LA PRENSA GRAFICA [as heard].

[?Hernandez] Good morning, Mr. President. I would like you to confirm the PNC deployment scheduled for next week. There have been rumors that it will be in Mejicanos and Ayutuxtepeque.

[Cristiani] No, the next deployment will be in Nueva San Salvador and Antiguo Cuscatlan municipalities. I understand the PNC graduation will be on 21 January and the deployment will be a few days later.

[Moderator] Wilber Gomez of "The Newscast."

[Gomez] Mr. President, regarding the PNC deployment throughout San Salvador, how many will there be? Where will the San Salvador National Police be deployed?

[Cristiani] We believe 340 will graduate from the PNC academy. We have no way of know how many may fail, but the final number is somewhere around 340. We understand there are approximately 40 additional PNC members who fell behind in some subjects and others who will be ready for this deployment. In other words, we are aiming to have about 400 PNC members for those two municipalities. The remaining will be deployed in the rest of the metropolitan area that remains under National Police responsibility.

[Gomez] But where will the National Police from these areas be deployed?

[Cristiani] To the remaining municipalities in the San Salvadors metropolitan area. [passage omitted]

FMLN Reiterates Impartiality in Chiapas Incidents

PA1301123394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0038 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (EFE)—El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) today, Wednesday, rejected in the Mexican capital any insinuation that attempts to implicate it in the Chiapas conflict. Incidents in Chiapas "are strictly internal problems of the Mexican state," and solutions should be reached while respecting Mexico's sovereignty, indicated the FMLN in a press communique sent to EFE.

The former Salvadoran guerrillas expressed their support for the peace initiatives through dialogue between all the sectors involved and regretted the loss of human lives in the armed conflict.

The FMLN reiterated that since the signing of the Chapultepec Agreement in January 1993, it is a completely legal political party, respecting noninterference in the internal affairs of third countries.

The former guerrillas condemned press and political statements linked to the ARENA [Nationalist Reublican Alliance] party that attempt to tangle the FMLN in the violent Chiapas incidents. They warned that these accusations are evidence of despair in the face of the FMLN's electoral progress with regard to the March 1994 Salvadoran elections.

Honduras

President Callejas Rejects Suspending General Discua

PA1401043194 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Jan 94 p 11

[Text] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas reiterated yesterday, that the legal conditions to suspend Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir are nonexistent. Thus, he said, the Committee of Relatives of Missing Detainees in Honduras's (COFADEH) petition in this respect is inadmissible.

"No private organization has the power to order the suspension of the Armed Forces commander. This action can only be ordered by the corresponding legal authority," he emphasized.

Callejas, in his role as general commander of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, opened the session of the Armed Forces Senior Council this morning.

Reina Discusses Economy, Missing Persons Report, Cabinet

PA1401035494 Tegucigalpa EL PERIODICO DE HONDURAS in Spanish 10 Jan 94 p 11

[Article by Jose Francisco Morazan]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President-elect Carlos Roberto Reina has said that in meetings with representatives of international financial organizations, they promised to help Honduras work out its economic problems and pay its social debt.

He made this statement after it was reported that these organizations are pressuring our country to increase taxes and utility rates, as well as to eliminate urban public transportation subsidies. "I have talked to members of the IMF and other financial institutions, and all aid programs seek to settle the social debt," he said.

Congressional Presidency

Reina announced that those who aspire to be president of the Legislative Branch ended their proselytizing activities on 8 January. He added that "all personal attacks, propaganda, and pressure to occupy that post are suspended."

Missing Persons Report

He labeled the report submitted by Leo Valladares, national human rights ombudsman, on missing persons as a "white book." Carlos Reina believes that "this report indeed favors Honduras because it has plenty of information on this very delicate subject." He pointed out that the only thing left to do is to establish the procedure for implementing this report and complement it with another final report that will let the people know the truth about these cases.

Government Cabinet

Reina emphasized that his cabinet will be announced in due time because he dislikes making hasty decisions. Instead, he prefers to give careful thought to the appointments. He also said that he is concerned that the media may report that he failed to appoint a specific person to some public post because he is not "fond of making offers." He added that some San Pedro Sula business leaders were offered posts in the Economy Ministry, but such offers did not materialize for reasons that he did not disclose.

Carlos Reina pointed out that Olvin Rodriguez has not been removed from the list of possible candidates for public office because he is not finished yet with appointing his cabinet. "I hold him in esteem; he has worked hard. He meets the requirements, and I will offer him a high position in the Executive Branch," added Reina.

He also added that members of the National Party of Honduras [PNH] will join his administration "in two ministries, as was the case during the PNH administration." These reportedly will be the Ministries of Labor and Social Welfare, and Culture and Tourism.

Armed Forces Senior Council Communique Endorses Discua

PA1301213794 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jan 94 p 4A

["Official communique" issued by the Honduran Armed Forces Senior Council in Tegucigalpa on 10 January]

[Text] The Armed Forces Senior Council during its special session 01-94 analyzed the circumstances derived from the "Preliminary Report on Missing Persons" presented to the public by Human Rights Commissioner Leo Jose Rodriguez Valladares Lanza.

In view of the circumstances, the Council deems it necessary to state the objective and patriotic position of the Armed Forces to the Honduran people to prevent continued speculation on the subject by sectors not necessarily interested in social peace or the national well-being. Therefore, we hereby state our position under the following terms:

1. The Honduran Armed Forces, as a part of Honduran society, have developed and will permanently develop a plan to participate in actions for our homeland's modernization, reconciliation, social peace,and human and economic development. Our only interest is promoting the people's well-being and Honduran progress. We are aware of the fact that without our participation, we would not have reached the state of human solidarity and the opportunities for development we can justly expect today.

2. The historical circumstances that existed in our country during the eighties cannot and should not be radically analyzed or isolated from the ideological, political, and economic context that characterized the Cold War. During that period, antagonistic forces maintained a climate of confrontation not only in Honduras, but in the entire world.

3. Therefore, within the fast moving process of society's transition toward total respect for human rights within a pluralist and participative democracy, the Honduran State and its national institutions have clearly defined the levels of participation and responsibility in the efforts to reconcile the Honduran family and consolidate democracy. We feel we have contributed to those lofty objectives and we are proud of the role played by our institution, with loyalty, honor, and sacrifice.

4. We categorically reiterate our commitment to abide by the Constitution and laws as the essence for our professional duties and responsibilities. Within that concept, we believe that the entire process for investigating the actions that motivated this communique must be carried out based on legal grounds, and not on sectarian positions and obscure interests.

5. The actions carried out by Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, have been and continue to be consistent with the task of democratizing and modernizing the Honduran State. The military institution takes part in the process of modernization and professionalization. Hence, we publicly express our strongest "vote of confidence" to him, supporting his actions. We also believe he should continue performing his constitutional duties as commander of the "people's armed branch." Hence, it should be clearly established that the Armed Forces and its commander in chief constitute an indestructible unity at the service of our homeland, and that it will act within the framework of the law to defend the institution's unity, permanence, and stability, for the benefit of the national community.

6. Finally, we believe that our fatherland should come first in our plans and goals. The Armed Forces have faith in the nation's future and will continue to be a decisive factor for the achievement of the people's aspirations, guided by the principles of national reconciliation and respect for the law. Consequently, we clearly and categorically affirm that it will not be the differences that separate us, but the ideals that unite us, which will help

Hondurans build the fatherland we all want: high in the eternal dream of our civic glories and great in the minds of its best children.

Nicaragua

National Assembly Swears In New President

PA1301125994 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Jan 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by Jorge Katin]

[Text] Pledging his commitment to "consolidate the political stability process" from within the parliament, Christian Democrat Luis Humberto Guzman was sworn in as National Assembly president.

Guzman was nominated for this position by Gustavo Tablada, who minutes before resigned as parliamentary president during an extended ovation. Marcia Quezada, third secretary, also resigned amid acknowledgement from the deputies present.

A total of 56 deputies attended the afternoon session, while the rest of those who have made a commitment to rejoin the Assembly watched the voting from the hallways.

Tablada made a brief speech, limiting himself to saying that he was fulfilling his commitment by occupying his seat in the parliament.

Tablada's proposal was supported by the chief of the Sandinist bloc, Sergio Ramirez. The Sandinist parliamentarian affirmed that "a very clear message is being sent that with our support for Luis Humberto Guzman we will work toward a consensus.

Ramirez said: "The UDC [Christian Democratic Union] took a brave step by breaking a taboo deeply embedded in this nation's unfortunate political culture." Ramirez added: "Tablada's step is equally brave."

Other parliamentarians joined in to support the candidacy of Guzman, who was unanimously elected National Assembly president. Immediately after the election Guzman approached Tablada and greeted him.

Armando Zambrana received similar support and was elected third secretary of the Board of Directors.

Internal Legislation Reformed

Guzman began his first speech as president of the National Assembly by blaming the liberal-conservatives for the 150 years of retardation in our country.

"The idea of exacerbating the crisis (through a campaign for a constituent assembly) is absolutely immoral and crazy," the new National Assembly president said forcefully.

After the 1990 change in government, "a change in the political regimen can no longer be postponed in accordance with the exigencies of peace, democracy, and development," Guzman said.

We need an active and legitimate parliament, the UDC leader said. He called on the rest of the deputies, who were absent yesterday, to return to their parliamentary duties on 25 January, when sessions are scheduled to resume.

After the swearing-in ceremony, the deputies voted on reforms of internal legislation as established in a Justice Commission document, the discussion of had been pending from the previous legislative session. Six articles were reformed.

The reforms establish that members of the Board of Directors should office for one year, while allowing for the possibility of reelection.

The Assembly president's duties are set out in the reformed articles, which also state that the Board of Directors will determine the session's agenda by a majority vote.

Ambassadors Call for Normalcy

Roberto Urroz, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, who attended the morning swearing-in ceremony, said his party did not take part in the voting because the Board of Directors should have been more representative. But, he said, this will not prevent the MDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement] and the PSD [Social Democratic Party] from joining the regular sessions later on.

"We hope more well-meaning deputies will start passing laws to benefit the people," U.S. Ambassador John Maisto told BARRICADA. The ambassador was forced to withdraw before the sessions ended because of health problems.

Maisto said he felt "optimistic" about events in the Assembly and described as "positive" the steps being taken by the parties which have announced their return to the National Assembly.

Papal Nuncio Paolo Giglio said he was optimistic about the deputies' participation in the opening session. "I hope the rest follow suit," the Vatican's representative said.

Chilean Ambassador Gaston Illanes said the ceremony was one of great importance and noted that hopes are now focused on complete normalization of the country.

The complete participation by the diplomatic corps was an important sign of the international community's support for the stabilization process implemented at the National Assembly, several invited guests said. Yesterday the National Assembly hall was not large enough.

National Assembly Sandinist Wing Elects Executive Committee

PA1401035394 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Communique issued by the Sandinist Wing at the Nicaraguan National Assembly in Managua on 12 January; from the "Events" newscast]

[Text] The Sandinist Wing of the National Assembly hereby reports that, during its regular session on 12 January 1994, it reached the following decisions:

1. Election of the new Executive Committee, which will act during 1994. Its members are Sergio Ramirez Mercado, chief; Dora Maria Tellez, deputy chief; Jorge Samper Blanco, executive secretary; Reinaldo Antonio Tefel, member of the National Assembly Board of Directors; Ray Hooker Taylor, member of the National Assembly Board of Directors; William Ramirez Solorzano, director; Doris Tigerino, director; Leticia Herrera Sanchez, director; Marcia Quezada, director; and Danilo Aguirre Solis, director.

2. Approval of the parliamentary strategy guidelines for the current year.

3. Approval of the priority list of draft laws proposed during 1993 and those to be proposed this year, upon the request of several community groups.

4. Ratification of the agreements reached on 9 December 1993 and 8 January 1994, signed by the four National Assembly wings: Center Bloc, Sandinist, Christian Democratic Union, and Unity and Reconciliation.

Argentina

Interior Minister Discusses Santiago del Estero Unrest

PY1301165094 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jan 94 p 6

[Interview with Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf while vacationing in Villa Gesel by "special correspondent" Norberto Beladrich; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Beladrich] Everyone is still very well aware of what happened in Santiago del Estero, surely...

[Ruckauf] I am convinced that Santiago del Estero has not been a "victim" of the transformation process. What should have been done there was just not done. There was a chaotic government, very bad mismanagement of the economy, and an astronomical financial crisis.

[Beladrich] For you then Santiago del Estero is a unique case?

[Ruckauf] I did not say that; but it is very different from the rest because all the ingredients were right for an explosion. Think back to January 1993, the salary roster amounted to 20 million pesos; in October it escalated to 36 million pesos, while income amounted to some 5 million pesos... Other provinces have problems regarding the income-expenditure ratio, but no province had such a bad ratio as Santiago del Estero. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Possibly Involved in Santiago del Estero Riots

PY1301143794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1319 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion today admitted the existence of unconfirmed reports on the alleged participation of Shining Path activists in the social revolt that took place in Santiago del Estero. However, he said, "there is no specific information" about the subject.

The presence of an unidentified activist group was detected, Camilion said. The group took advantage of "a clear, spontaneous, situation" staged by the people who participated in the revolt.

In statements to Radio Continental, the minister said the presence of Shining Path activists in Santiago del Estero has not been confirmed and that "if there was specific information about an identified individual he would be expelled from the country."

He also said that another report mentioned the presence of a police officer whose last name is Chuk in the revolt in Santiago del Estero. The subject, however, was not mentioned during the internal security meeting held on 12 January with President Carlos Menem.

According to Camilion, during the meeting Menem "warned" officials responsible for internal security to "keep their eyes open" and asked intelligence officials to "obtain information and investigate."

"It was a sudden meeting, not to analyze an urgent subject, but to be alert," the defense minister said.

Camilion also said the government is investigating the origin of the fire in Misiones City Hall and the attacks on installations of privatized public services.

The possibility that drug traffickers might be financing the Zapatista guerrillas in Mexico was discussed during the meeting, Camilion said, adding that the national government "does not doubt they received a significant amount of money" from some group.

Although he said the internal security meetings will continue to be held, Camilion denied the existence of a predetermined agenda, adding that "in the short term no meeting will be held to discuss so many subjects as yesterday."

Regarding the 12 January meeting, Camilion ruled out that the presence of the Armed Forces should have any political meaning "other than that established by the Internal Security Law that states the Armed Forces can be called at the last moment to intervene in extreme cases."

Social Plan for Provinces Adopted After Security 'Alert'

PY1301181094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1625 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—The national cabinet today decided to implement a strong plan to generate jobs and provide social aid in the eight northern Argentine provinces after President Carlos Menem's decision to place the security services on alert in face of the possible reappearance of urban guerrillas.

The cabinet decision, which appears to be directly linked to the president's concerns, was announced by Labor Minister Armando Caro Figueroa, who said that, among other measures, it has been decided to create eight management offices to create jobs and monitor Social Plan funds.

The labor minister did not want to discuss the measures adopted by Menem and his security cabinet regarding possible guerrilla actions in the provinces experiencing a social crisis by saying: "It is not good to make predictions."

He also downplayed the fact that the Armed Forces commanders were summoned by the president by saying that such an issue "must not be considered exceptional because it exists in all the democratic countries I know."

Caro Figueroa said the government "is not indifferent" to the decision of the General Labor Confederation

(CGT) to hold a general strike on a yet undetermined date, "although we will continue prioritizing a dialogue" in an attempt to make union leaders change their mind.

Media Secretary Raul Burzaco said the other subjects discussed during the security cabinet meeting were the implementation of the Social Plan by the health and social action minister, a briefing by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella about the possibility of granting Argentine citizenship to the children of Argentines residing abroad, and other reports read by [National Tourism Agency Director] Francisco Mayorga and [Natural Resources and Environment Secretary] Maria Julia Alsogaray.

Caro Figueroa said he first informed the cabinet members of the state of negotiations with the CGT and the business organizations.

Among other points already known by the public, the labor minister informed the cabinet about the labor unions' demands to make the government responsible for the labor unions' previous debts in keeping with the a law that has not been applied yet. "We will comply with this legal obligation," Caro Figueroa said.

The security cabinet created on 12 January by Menem will follow up the social situation in the provinces, on the lookout for eventual social revolts, Caro Figueroa said. He added: "It is necessary to adopt different measures because the labor situation is not the same in all the provinces."

That is why he announced the decision, which was approved by the cabinet, to create eight management offices to promote employment and follow up the distribution of social aid funds in each of the country's northern provinces.

These management offices "must not only guarantee the efficiency of the social expenses but also support the decentralization and reconversion process" implemented by the central government.

He said the reconversion policy in the provinces undergoing a serious social crisis "must be carried out with the least social cost possible," adding that "it is possible to implement these changes in an untraumatic manner."

When discussing the official decision to place the intelligence services on alert, Caro Figueroa said: "They are measures to guarantee internal security, and they must not be considered exceptional issues because they exist in all the democratic countries I know."

He added that it is not an isolated fact within the government "since all the policies, the economic policy and the social policy, go together hand in hand."

He denied that the concern over the alleged reappearance of a guerrilla group "came up just by chance," as well as the concern over the need to implement social policies in the troubled provinces, given that "the government has been concerned about the situation in the northern provinces for more than a year."

Alfonsin Concerned Over Military Presence at Olivos Meeting

PY1301185494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1643 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—UCR [Radical Civic Union] President Raul Alfonsin today expressed concern over the participation of military leaders in yesterday's meeting at the Olivos presidential residence. The meeting was held to review the security situation in the interior of our country.

Alfonsin said he believes it is right for the government to be interested in this issue, but pointed out that he would like "this issue to be tackled from a social and economic viewpoint, without apparent preparation for repression."

The main opposition party leader pointed out that he was very surprised at "the presence of the military leaders who, according to Interior Security regulations, should not become involved in this issue until the final phase is reached, via a decision that does not seem to have been made."

Alfonsin said the UCR is studying the regional economies. He said: "In February, we will have a panorama for discussion with the government because we want to change the direction of these talks—instead of waiting for an invitation to join any commission, we will present our own proposals."

In remarks to Radio del Plata, Alfonsin said: "I have been talking about the deterioration of social peace for more than a year. I have traveled the entire country. Every time I return to Buenos Aires, I repeat that measures must be taken because all the regional economies are experiencing crises, some of which seem to be terminal."

Alfonsin emphasized that "it is absolutely impossible" to pursue the current adjustment program, which "might be possible if the private sector were hiring personnel fired."

The former president ruled out the possibility of guerrilla pockets cropping up in the provinces. He said: "Petitions may be tabled by people who are living beyond conceivable limits."

Alfonsin again endorsed the agreement he signed with President Carlos Menem on constitutional reform. He said: "From a democratic viewpoint, we managed to overcome a tremendous crisis, which I have described as disastrous."

Alfonsin noted that before this agreement "we were on a collision course," which "would have forced the UCR to

refuse to elect constituent assembly members and to refuse to accept the new Constitution."

Economic Changes Sought by Northwestern Provinces

PY1301133694 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 12 Jan 94 p 6

[Text] The economy ministers of the northwestern Argentine provinces agreed on 11 January in Tucuman on "the need to adapt the public sector's national reform policy to the provinces' reality." Since the people's revolt in Santiago del Estero, this is the first sign of alert made jointly in disagreement with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo.

The meeting was attended by the economy ministers of Tucuman, Raul Paulino Rios; Catamarca, Herman Colombo; and Jujuy, Daniel Gomar; La Rioja Finance Secretary Pablo Manuel Aguilera; and Salta Public Works Secretary Julio Guzman.

The meeting was not attended by the representative of Santiago del Estero, where the revolt took place and whose government has been intervened by the federal government.

After analyzing the social conflicts that are nearly permanent in their respective provinces, the growing unemployment in the public sector, and the recent demonstrations staged by tobacco workers, the ministers drafted a critical diagnosis of the consequences of the national economic policy. At the meeting's end they released a short communique.

The most important paragraph of the joint declaration states "the need to adapt the public sector's national reform policy to the provinces' reality."

Internal Security Budget Allocations for 1994 Disclosed

PY1301215694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1946 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—Budget allocations for internal security this year grew by approximately 169 million pesos with respect to the allocations for 1993. The figures are included in the budget that Congress approved for 1994.

The following is a comparative table of the allocations for 1993 and 1994:

	1993	1994	Difference
Internal Security	1,214,990,500	1,353,106,754	138,116,254
SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence]	159,922,000	191,800,000	31,878,000

As for the security forces, the following are the figures provided for in the 1994 budget:

Federal Police:	560,962,000
Border Police:	325,121,000
Prefecture:	254,789,000

If these figures are added to the Armed Forces allocations, the total amount destined to defense and internal security amounts to 3,582,091,408 pesos, which is equivalent to 8.96 percent of the 1994 budget.

Government Considers Canadian Wheat Import 'Closed' Matter

PY1401020594 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 13 Jan 94 p 23

[Text] Montevideo—The case of the 1-million-ton shipment of Canadian wheat that will enter Brazil from Canada at a very low price is closed. Argentina has asked Brazil for "compensation" to its growers to counterbalance the "unfair competition" from the Canadians. The Itamar Franco government has, however, already made its decision: "The state does not intervene in the grain market, which is absolutely free."

In a conversation with CLARIN, Foreign Trade Secretary Renato Marques said: "As of 1991, wheat purchases are no longer handled by the state. Today private parties freely import wheat. Brazil no longer exercises foreign trade control."

[CLARIN] There was the situation when Brazil granted Argentina compensation after confirming that U.S. wheat sold to Brazil was subsidized...

[Marques] That was an entirely different case. The United States was exporting wheat under the Export Enhancement Program, and this involved oficial recognition that wheat was being subsidized.

Bolivia

Subversive Group, Armed Forces Links Viewed

PY1301191694 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 7 Jan 94 pp A1, A2

[Text] The Intelligence Service of the Ministry of Government has stated that "Vivo Rojo"—a self-styled extreme left group—is a "clandestine activist partner" within the Revolutionary Workers Party (POR). This information was disclosed today by Colonel German Linares, chief of the National Intelligence Service of the Bolivian Police.

During an exclusive interview with LOS TIEMPOS in La Paz, Linares asserted that the "Vivo Rojo" subversive group is not a disorganized faction within the Armed Forces but—on the contrary—"it bases its actions on the ideology of the trotskyist POR-Lora [whose leader is Guillermo Lora]."

Linares added: "Our investigations in various parts of the Republic reveal serious evidence that this subversive

group, which is of a socialist tendency, plans its terrorist actions following the dissemination of bibliographic material that contains its doctrine. This is directed toward previously selected sectors of Bolivian society."

Linares said that "Vivo Rojo" has links "which, although unimportant, are particularly notorious among the small groups within the Bolivian Armed Forces that supply information on acts of corruption and irregularities to the clandestine group."

Linares explained: "'Vivo Rojo' takes advantage of these cases to write slogans against the democratic system, the government, and the high military command."

This statement somewhat explains the active presence of the group in La Paz, Oruro, El Alto, and Cochabamba, where its members have painted "graffiti" criticizing the current government and the Armed Forces high command, which they call "accomplices of the country's shortcomings."

The Intelligence Service chief disclosed that the investigations which started last year to definitely establish the presence of the extremist "Vivo Rojo" group, is classified as "B-2 Information."

Linares said that for national security reasons, and to protect the investigations, the State Intelligence Directorate is unable to supply more information on what is being done to "dismantle this clandestine organization" which he called "incipient and unharmful to our democratic stability."

The controversial police official asserted on 6 January, however, that the POR "is a latent threat to our democratic stability."

He said the methods used by the group to indoctrinate, to implement its partisan activities, and to disseminate its ideology explicitly reveal that "it is a political group which seeks by any means to discredit the institutions and their legally established authorities" and thus destabilize the democratic system in Bolivia.

Government, Coca Growers Agree on Coca Marketing

PY1401012094 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 8 Jan 94 p A10

[Text] As a result of negotiations with the government, the coca growers of Chapare and Yungas will be able to sell their products in the nine departments of the country, said Guido Tarqui, leader of the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation], who participated in the negotiations.

He said that this agreement breaks the circle around the coca market. He added: "It will now be possible to take the products from the central markets to the different departments of greater consumption. This will help consumers because prices will fall."

He also said that branch markets will be established to allow producers to take the coca there directly. He said: "This will not affect middlemen, it will only serve to open up free marketing in the different parts of the country."

Tarqui indicated that during the meeting held on 6 January important progress was made in favor of coca growers, but that there are still several points pending on which the government must provide answers to the COB by 25 January, so that both sides can study them together on 3 February.

He said: "The regulation for marketing coca was approved, although some additions based on agreements for the Chapare region of Cochabamba must still be made. The only thing left to be done now is to promulgate the law based on the agreements reached with the government minister (German Quiroga)."

He added that another important point of progress was the government's full acceptance of the issuance of a supreme decree for marketing coca.

Regarding the pending points, Tarqui said that the government asked that the revision of Law 1008 on controlled substances, which coca growers have demanded be made permanent, be left pending.

Tarqui recalled that as a result of Law 1008 many peasants were subjected to abuse and attacks "because coca and cocaine are in the same bag."

He said that the decree on the participation of peasants is also pending.

Decree 22270 establishes the "equal" participation of peasants and officials of the National Committee for Alternative Development (Conadal), the Regional Committee for Alternative Development (Coredal), and the Local Alternative Development Committees (Colodal).

Tarui added: "We are demanding that equal participation in this case be maintained. That is, five government representatives, five peasant representatives, and one official who in this case would be the government minister."

Brazil

Trade Unionist Believes U.S. Measures Not To Affect Brazil

PY1401114094 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 10 Jan 94 p 8

[Text] The "feud" between the United States and the PRC should not affect Brazilian businesses, even though the United States is the number one importer of Brazilian products. Luiz Americo Medeiros, the chairman of the Textile Industry Trade Union (Sinditextil), has stated that "when the United States cuts the quota of one country it does not necessarily increases that of another. On the contrary, it increasingly seeks to apply more restrictions."

Medeiros noted that the United States finds it easy to curtail the PRC's quota because the latter has not yet joined the GATT. The bilateral agreement between Brazil and the United States expires on 31 March and will be automatically renewed for another year.

Official Confirms Impasse in Mercosur Negotiations

PY1401114194 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Jan 94 p B12

[Article by Wladimir Goitia]

[Text] Montevideo—Winston Fritsch, the Brazilian Government secretary of economic policy, yesterday denied that Brazil and Argentina have reached an agreement on the adoption of a Common External Tariff (TEC) of 12 percent for capital goods and chemicals, which will reportedly begin in 2001 within Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Contrary to what the Uruguayan press has reported over the past two days, Fritsch confirmed that there is still impasse in the definition of a protection tariff on informatics and pharmaceutical products, conventional capital products, commodities that are subject to quotas, and cars. "Until there is consensus on all products affected by the common external tariff, we will not sign anything," Fritsch told the ESTADO news agency. He said Brazil will not close any partial deal. He thus referred to the 15-percent portion of the list of products affected by the TEC, on which no agreement has yet been reached. Agreement has so far been reached on practically 85 percent of the list of products, with tariffs ranging from 0 to 20 percent. Fritsch said he believes the list will be ready at the end of the first half of the year. He believes more negotiations will be necessary.

Shortly after arriving in Montevideo yesterday afternoon, accompanied by Foreign Trade Secretary Renato Marques and other Itamaraty advisers, Fritsch met with Argentine technicians at the Argentine Embassy to continue negotiating the subject, which will be raised at a Common Market Group meeting today.

A consultant with fluent contacts with technicians of Argentine ministries has said that Argentina might agree to a TEC ranging from 8 to 12 percent for those products, provided this tariff gradually falls to 0 until year 2,001. If Argentina makes this proposal at the meeting in Montevideo, Brazil will reject it. Next Monday, Brazilian, Argentine, Uruguayan, and Paraguayan Presidents Itamar Franco, Carlos Menem, Luis Lacalle, and Juan Carlos Wasmosy, respectively, will meet in Colonia, 170 km from Montevideo, for the 5th Common Market Council meeting. Depending on the impasse, the TEC may or may not be confirmed.

The TEC is not the only obstacle obstructing the implementation of Mercosur, which is scheduled for 1995. Regulations on origin, the deployment of duty-free zones, and the protection of consumers are other controversial, unresolved matters. Such matters have so far been analyzed at the level of work subgroups, at which the technicians of the four countries formulated their proposals. Those three subjects, along with the list of exceptions, will now be studied within the Common Market Group, which is an executive organ of Mercosur.

President 'Irritated' by Surprise Fuel Price Increase

PY1301123594 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jan 94 p B1

[Article by Antonio Carlos Silva and Marcio de Morais]

[Text] Brasilia—The 17 percent surprise increase in fuel prices implemented at 0000 on 11 January has irritated President Itamar Franco. He complained about the increase directly to Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso in a telephone call early in the morning. The increase was not released by the Finance Ministry the previous afternoon, and this has been a practice in the Itamar Franco government. Newspapers and television stations learned about the increase through the distribution companies, while the resolution was not published by the official gazette until 11 January.

In addition to complaining about the increase granted on the sly, President Franco ordered that, as of now, all new increases will be implemented only after advance notice to the public. It was the president himself who, in the beginning of his government, adopted this initiative that fuel price readjustments would be implemented only after notifying consumers at least 12 hours in advance. "There will be no more increases in the dead of the night," President Franco said then.

According to Planalto Palace spokesman Francisco Baker, President Franco was aware of the fuel price increase, but he complained about the "failure in communication" that prevented the announcement of new prices to the public. As of 0000 last night the gasoline price increased to 219 real cruzeiros per liter, alcohol prices to 172 real cruzeiros, while diesel oil went up to 136 real cruzeiros per liter.

Geneva Representative Examines Advantages of GATT Approval

PY1301192394 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jan 94 p B10

[Article by Aldo Renato Soares]

[Text] Brasilia—Luiz Felipe Lampreia, Brazilian representative before the international organizations headquartered in Geneva (Switzerland), yesterday said that Brazil can benefit from a tariff reduction in the U.S. and European markets. Up until 12 April—when the ceremony for the final signing of the Uruguay Round of the GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) talks will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco—tariffs may not be

increased. Lampreia, Brazil's top negotiator in the Uruguay Round, denied that the Brazilian agricultural sector was harmed by the negotiations.

"Brazil did not win, but is not worse off than it was," he said. In making an evaluation of the Uruguay Round, Lampreia admitted that the liberalization of trade for industrial products was more comprehensive than it was for agricultural products. "Negotiations over farm products are always more complicated," he emphasized. Lampreia said that Brazil could still obtain tariff reductions in the U.S. and European markets, especially on orange juice. The United States reduced tariffs on orange juice by 15 percent, and the Europeans by 20 percent.

Lampreia explained that the greatest progress made in the Uruguay Round was represented by the agreement on the rules that will ban the adoption of unilateral, arbitrary, antidumping measures. "The margin of arbitrariness will be considerably reduced," he said, adding that after the ceremony in Marrakesh, which will be attended by the foreign ministers of 117 countries, the agreements signed in Geneva will be translated and sent to each signatory country. The Senate Economic Affairs Committee will begin studying the agreements by mid-May.

Lampreia said that there are no possibilities for any modifications. "Either the Senate approves them or rejects them," he noted. At the beginning of 1995, GATT will host a ministerial conference to evaluate the approval of the agreements, and will start the work for the creation of the International Organization of Commerce, which will replace GATT. Lampreia said the new organization will begin operating in July 1995.

Ministers of Agriculture, Industry Named

PY1401002494 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Live video report by Alexadre Garcia from Brasilia]

[Text] President Itamar Franco has just announced that Sinval Guazelli is the new agriculture minister. Guazelli, a member of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], is a former deputy and former governor of Rio Grande do Sul under Jose Sarney [1985-90]. He currently holds the post of director of general credit at the Bank of Brazil.

President Franco also appointed Senator Elcio Alvares, PFL-ES [Liberal Front Party-Espirito Santo] as minister of industry, commerce, and tourism. Senator Alvares was previously the governor of Espirito Santo.

President Franco has to yet appoint the minister of mines, energy, and metallurgy. Senator Beni Vera, PSDB-CE [Christian Social Democracy Party-Ceara] is a likely candidate, although this afternoon he denied having been offered the portfolio.

President Franco further announced that (Djalma Moraes)—a former chairman of Minas Gerais Telecommunications Company—will continue to be acting communications minister.

Franco made it clear that the choice of the two new ministers is not due to the political parties to which they belong; it is his personal choice.

Roundup of Economic Reports From 7-13 Jan

PY1301174394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Brazil monitored between 7 and 13 January.

Fuel prices increased 17 percent as of 0000 on 11 January. This is the first increase of the year authorized by the Finance Ministry. Now fuel prices will not have any real readjustments, but will be readjusted according to the monthly inflation rate. National airline tickets were increased 31 percent. (Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 11 Jan 94)

The Trade Technical Department reported that Brazilian wood exports were $800 million in 1993 compared with $562 million in 1992. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 11 Jan 94 p 13)

Chile

MNR Warns of Possible Violence During Frei Government Term

PY1301202494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Jan 94 pp C1, C4

[Excerpts] The leaders of the Manuel Rodriguez Movement (MMR) yesterday did not rule out the possibility of violent actions of various degrees during the Eduardo Frei government, warning that this will depend on the violence used by the system.

In its first statement on the next administration, the MMR said that it will demand that Frei "pay the immense social debt contracted by the government of Patricio Aylwin."

Cesar Quiroz, deputy coordinator of the MMR National Board, who in June 1991 abandoned the armed struggle to join politics, said that the level of violence would depend on the situation in the country and on the people's acceptance of it.

About its links with the Autonomous Manuel Rodriguez Front (FMR-A), which has remained underground, undertaking subversive actions, the MMR said that it had no plans for joint actions, though adding that it respects them in their capacity as former companions in the armed struggle. [passage omitted]

Quiroz, who said that the current state of law is "highly repressive," made these remarks during a press conference that he and MMR National Board member Marco Riquelme hosted yesterday at the MIDA [Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement] headquarters.

The members of the political group said they do not expect any change for the future, adding that the police state would become more intense during this period.

They also emphasized that during the "new times" Socialists will be in charge of repression, thus alluding to the designation of the Socialist German Correa to the Interior Ministry.

The leaders read a statement to the press saying that the Aylwin government did not resolve the problem of political prisoners or of human rights. [passage omitted]

Staff Chief Reiterates Military Subordination to Government

PY1301195894 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 7 Jan 94 p 14

[Report by Hernan Garcia M-C]

[Excerpt] Vice Admiral Jorge Patricio Arancibia, chief of the National Defense Staff, yesterday reiterated that the Chilean Armed Forces "are totally subordinated to the government, and should they undertake any action they will do it with top professionalism."

During a Latin American seminar on military spending being held in Santiago, Arancibia made an overall analysis of the decisionmaking process and changes within this context. He emphasized that this type of meeting permitted one to see "the progress achieved in technical and academic relations between civilians and the military."

During the conference's first day, which was designed by the National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies [Academia Nacional de Estudios Politicos y Estrategicos] (ANEPE), and by the Latin American School of Social Sciences (Flacso), the agenda included defense policies, new security concepts, the economic balance, and military spending in developed countries. [passage omitted]

Minister Seeks Change in Armed Forces Funding System

PY1301213394 Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 7 Jan 94 p 8

[All figures as published]

[Excerpt] Mining Minister Alejandro Hales yesterday endorsed the suggestion of Juan Villarzu, the executive president-designate of Codelco [Copper Corporation], that the Armed Forces should be funded directly from the National Treasury and not from 10 percent of net sales of copper.

After learning that different sectors of the country support Villarzu's views, Hales stated that it would be advisable to include appropriations for the Armed Forces in the National Budget. "Nobody is seeking to deprive the Armed Forces of its financing, rather that it should come from a more legitimate source," he added.

The mining minister explained that the allotments derived from the Reserved Law on Copper (No. 13196)—which came into effect during the military regime—totalled $313 million in 1989, $287 million in 1990, $223 million in 1991, $204 million in 1992, and $197 million in 1993. He noted that as last year's allotment was lower than the $180 million minimum contemplated in the law plus the Consumer Price Index readjustment, the total for 1993 will be $210 million. "The National Treasury will have to supplement the minimum payment with $30 million. This financial obligation will not be defrayed by Codelco but by the National Treasury," he said. [passage omitted]

Biographic Information on Frei's Three Latest Appointments

PY1401024594

[Editorial Report] Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish on 7 January publishes on page 7 a 400-word article on the background of the three latest appointments made by President-elect Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle to complete his cabinet.

Ernesto Schiefelbein Fuenzalida, 59 and an independent, has been named education minister. He graduated from the University of Chile with a degree in commercial engineering, studied education at the Technical State University, and has a doctorate in education economics from Harvard University. He is married to Clara Groffi and has seven children. His professional background includes several important posts, such as UNESCO regional director and UNESCO representative to Chile, Peru, and Bolivia; member of the Higher Education Commission; researcher and planner at the World Bank Economic Development Institute; planning director at the Education Ministry during the administration of Eduardo Frei Montalva, 1964-70; and lecturer at Harvard University.

Emiliano Ortega Riquelme, a 56-year-old Christian Democrat, has been named agriculture minister. He is a University of Chile graduate in agronomy. He is married and has three children. He has written several books and numerous articles on agriculture and rural development. Among the posts he has held are executive manager of the Agriculture and Livestock Service; general director of agriculture and fishing in 1966; and adviser to the Institute of Agricultural Research.

Alejandro Jadresic Marinovic, 34 and an independent, has been appointed director of the National Energy Commission. He has a degree in industrial engineering from the University of Chile and a doctorate in economics from Harvard University. He is married and has

two children. His professional background includes the post of coordinator of sectorial policies in the Economy Ministry, coordinator of the Ministers' Committee for the Productive Area, chairman of the Antitrust Commission, member of the Economic Commission for Latin America, and faculty member at the School of Engineering at the University of Chile.

Roundup of Economic Reports Through 13 Jan

PY1301175894

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Chile monitored through 13 January.

According to the National Statistics Institute, INE, the accumulated inflation rate during 1993 was 12.2 percent, the lowest in the past 12 years. The Consumer Price Index, IPC, in December 1993 was 0.2 percent. The unemployment rate, according to the INE, during the last quarter of 1993 was 4.4 percent. This means 225,000 workers are unemployed. (Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jan 94)

Foreign investment in the first 11 months of 1993 totalled $2.3 billion, an increase of 91.7 percent compared with the same period in 1992. Mining registered the highest investment with 47.1 percent, industry with 29.4 percent, services with 16.8 percent, transportation with 2.7 percent, and forestry with 1.5 percent. The major investors are the United States with 36.8 percent, Canada with 11.5 percent, Great Britain with 8.5 percent, Spain with 7.2 percent, Australia with 5.6 percent, and Japan with 4.3 percent. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Dec 93 p B1)

On 22 December 1993, the National Fisheries Service reported that fishing exports totalled 1.038 million metric tons from January to October 1993, a 16.4 percent drop compared with the same period in 1992. This yielded a $974 million profit, a 14.7 percent drop. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Dec 93 p B10)

Exports of textiles and clothing totalled $144 million in 1993, an increase ov 26.3 percent compared with the previous year's $114 million. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 23 Dec 93 p 22)

The Chilean trade balance registered a $826 million deficit in the January-November 1993 period; in the same period in 1992 it registered a $716.5 million surplus. The November trade balance registered the highest deficit with $174 million because of a substantial decline in the copper price. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Dec 93 pp A1, A20)

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and Japanese Ambassador Eto Yukinisa exchanged notes in which Japan donates $14 million in nonreimbursable cooperation to build the most modern fish market in Chile. It will be built in Lo Espejo District; its design is based on the most modern Japanese experience and technology. It will work as a center to promote the consumption of sea products and will be ready by 1995. Japan will construct the market, while Chile will provide the site and pay administrative and supervision costs. (Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Jan 94)

Colombia

Attorney General To Survey U.S. Military Installations

PA1301201194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Jan 94

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] The Attorney General's Office decided to intervene in the case of the gringo soldiers who are now in Bahia Malaga. A group of Armed Forces lawyers will travel to the area, where they will interview residents, visit the military installations, and inspect aircraft and military vehicles to determine how they are being used.

The Attorney General's Office will also determine the purpose of the construction projects in Juanchaco, as well as the size and type of terrain where a school is supposedly being built.

Sanin To Discuss Case of Downed Venezuelan Helicopter

PA1301183494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jan 94

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] Another of the mandatory issues Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin must address while in Venezuela is the case of the helicopter in Arauca. The Colombian Prosecutor General's Office has enough evidence to press charges against 10 members of the Venezuelan National Guard for their part in the border incidents. She will not be able to achieve a thing if there is no cooperation from Venezuela.

The Prosecutor General's Office is investigating four specific crimes stemming from the helicopter incident involving 10 members of the Venezuelan National Guard. The Prosecutor General's Office now believes the helicopter was not shot down and that the Venezuelan officers violated Colombian territory. Theft, property damage, and attempted kidnapping are the other crimes under investigation. Given the situation, however, Colombia will be unable to act against those responsible as long as the Venezuelan Government does not cooperate.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What will the Prosecutor General's Office do next? Are you going to order the arrest of those involved?

[Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff] Naturally, we will have to take measures to take the suspects into custody as well as press charges, determine which charges to press, and present our cases before the judge.

[Reporter] Can these steps be taken by the Colombian Prosecutor's Office or will it have to be done by the Venezuelan Prosecutor General's Office?

[De Greiff] It will have to be done by the Colombian prosecutor because the events took place in Colombia. Where we do need Venezuela's cooperation—and we think we will get it—is in identifying the suspects.

[Reporter] Would these suspects be brought to Colombia?

[De Greiff] Naturally. Again, this would be done with the Venezuelan Government's cooperation. [end recording]

The issue is now in the hands of Minister Noemi Sanin and her protest action today in Venezuela, which is directed at getting the Venezuelan Government to second Colombia's legal actions and seeing these crimes do not go unpunished.

Files Formal Protest With Venezuela

PA1401031394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Report by Liliana Gutierrez; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The Colombian Government, through Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin Posada de Rubio, has filed a formal protest with the Venezuelan Government for the violation of its sovereignty by a Venezuelan National Guard helicopter in the area of Arauca. This is an excerpt of the formal protest note:

It textually reads: According to the results of the preliminary investigations conducted by the appropriate organizations, it has been established that once the aircraft illegally entered Colombian territory, its crew began stopping and detaining Colombian nationals, mistreating them, and taking away their belongings. This is a violation of international and internal norms protecting the sovereignty and integrity of states and private property. After the incidents mentioned above, the Colombian nationals who were being held were forced to board the helicopter that later crashed, injuring some of them.

The formal protest note adds: The Colombian Government, in condemning these incidents, is attentively awaiting the results of the investigation. It hopes the results will enable authorities to determine who was responsible, as well as to impose severe punishment on those responsible in order to avoid situations in the future that could tarnish the existing atmosphere of understanding between our peoples and governments.

Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin will turn over to the Venezuelan Government the protest on the violation of Colombian airspace and territory following the incident with the Venezuelan National Guard helicopter, which crashed in the Puerto Rico area in Arauca Department. The foreign minister asked authorities to investigate and punish those found responsible for abuses committed against peasants in the region.

Even though the diplomatic language was one of mutual praise and the incident was played down, Colombia gave the Venezuelan authorities the evidence gathered by the Prosecutor General's Office and the Defense Ministry.

Meanwhile, Venezuelan Defense Minister Radames Munoz said the incident was due to mechanical problems with the helicopter and added that Colombian sovereignty was not violated and peasants were not mistreated.

Finally, there was a border commission meeting in Caracas. Members reviewed the report drafted by Deputy Pompeyo Marquez in which it was revealed that along the 2,000-km border there are more than 70 areas where conflicts have occurred.

Ecuador

Government Refuses To Pay Debt With Commercial Banks

PA1401000194 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 94

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government announced today that its policy on paying the debt with the international financial institutions remains unchanged and that the government will not make any payments whatsoever to international commercial banks

Finance Minister Cesar Robalino said: We are making payments to the multilateral financial organizations on the principal and interest and will continue to do so with or without the crisis. He added: We have also maintained a policy toward the international commercial banks, which I have repeated over 100 times, and that policy remains the same; it has not changed.

Robalino said that negotiations with the commercial banks are still under way and that no agreement has yet been reached with the creditors grouped in the Paris Club. He said the government will soon present a refinancing plan to the Paris Club, but he did not outline what that plan would be.

Robalino said that problems emerge whenever there is a plunge in the prices of basic products such as oil, which is so important to Ecuador's economy. But, he added, the negotiation process with the banks must continue. He said that it is not easy to reach an agreement with the

banks, but the country has been working on the refinancing process for many years and will continue to do so. "We hope to reach an agreement and the date on which that happens is important because it is a complex process," Robalino said.

The finance minister admitted that the commercial banks are asking Ecuador to resume interest payments so that an agreement can be reached but not because they want to hold serious discussions. [sentence as heard]

Police Looking for Missing Cuban Diplomat

PA1301183394 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2229 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Quito, 12 Jan (DPA)—Amid a deafening silence, Ecuadoran police were today feverishly searching for the Cuban Embassy's business attache in Quito, who disappeared mysteriously on Sunday apparently with the intention of asking for political asylum.

Official Arturo Yero might be being held hostage at the Cuban diplomatic offices, according to the organization of Cuban exiles, Cuban Democratic Solidarity, which did not rule out the possibility that Yero could have found "safe haven."

Sources in the Foreign Ministry in Quito unofficially confirmed the disappearance of Yero and his wife but denied an asylum request had been filed.

Some 10 Cuban diplomats and journalists have deserted in Ecuador in the past few years, including intelligence officers.

According to Jesus Cruza-Flor, president of Cuban Democratic Solidarity, Yero is actually "a captain of Castro's intelligence forces" who reportedly received an order to return immediately to Havana, "which he refused." Cruza-Flor said the disappearance of the official, which is the second such case at the Cuban Embassy in Quito, "confirms that Fidel Castro's regime is inevitably reaching its end because of the overall discontent of the people, who flee Cuba as soon as they find an opportunity, leaving everything behind and risking it all."

Paraguay

Raul Garcete Takes Office as Attorney General

PY1201144694

[Editorial Report] Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish on 12 January on page 7 carries an unattributed 140-word article stating that President Juan Carlos Wasmosy recently appointed lawyer and former congressman Raul Garcete as the nation's new attorney general. Garcete, who replaces Julio Cesar Vasconcellos, took office on 11 January.

Executive, Congress Reach Compromise Settlement

PY1301234594 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 13 Jan 94 p 5

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy signed a "democratic agreement" with congressmen from all political parties soon after midday. He thus ended the conflict over the law on the Council for Magistrates.

After the ceremony, the head of state noted that this agreement has "a deep meaning that far exceeds the importance of its own objectives." He stated that "disagreements should always be surmounted through dialogue in order to set an example for our society, which has entrusted the different branches of government with the responsibility of ruling the country." Wasmosy said he hoped "this would be the starting point for the much sought-after national unity—to the exclusion of no one—so as to build a better Paraguay."

The president urged all levels of society—businessmen, workers, trade unionists—"to find this path of dialogue." He termed the agreement "a symbol of maturity."

"Today is 13 January, a controversial date in our history [on 13 January 1947 the Colorado Party dismissed all ministers belonging to other parties in the ruling coalition, becoming the sole ruler of the country]. Well, let this 13 January be the date on which we embark upon the path to lift our country out of underdevelopment," he stressed. After the president's speech, Justice Minister Juan Manuel Morales, a signatory to the document as well, read the decree whereby the executive partially vetoed the law on the Council for Magistrates.

By virtue of the agreement, the executive branch pledged to veto only Articles 42 and 47 of the law enacted by Congress, and congressmen committed themselves to accepting this veto so that the law might come into force as soon as possible. Article 42 pertains to the controversial issue about the required consent by the executive to the nomination of Supreme Court justices and Higher Electoral Court members. Article 47 deals with the procedure for the appointment of the prosecutor general.

On behalf of all congressmen, [Senator] Miguel Abdon Saguier [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] pointed out that he wanted to "reassure" Paraguayans that this agreement would not entail the manipulation of justice or its subordination to political interests.

Peru

Minister Says U.S. Withholding 1993 Aid Over Human Rights

PA1301194394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1748 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Lima, 13 Jan (EFE)—Peruvian Economy Minister Jorge Camet today confirmed that the United States is withholding a large economic contribution offered for 1993. This is a result of pressure from the U.S. Senate

over the human rights situation apparently linked to arrests based on antiterrorist laws. Camet said that the United States, which offered $105 million to improve Peru's balance of payments, is the only country of a group of six that pledged to help Peru achieve this goal that has failed to fulfill its promise. "The disbursement is being delayed by U.S. Senate pressure, perhaps because it is not properly informed about the human rights issue in Peru," the minister said.

The withholding of funds will apparently be the main issue that the Peruvian Government will discuss with Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, during an official visit that the high-ranking U.S. official will make to Peru from 18 to 21 January.

Camet added that Watson's visit to Lima "will have the important effect of unblocking the aid, because the United States is the only friendly country that has not yet honored an offer made last year."

Washington's concerns over human rights in Peru, according to various sources, are focused on abuses committed in the administration of justice during trials of people charged with terrorism based on strict antiterrorist laws. The discrepancies recently led to an incident between Peruvian Justice Minister Fernando Vega and a U.S. State Department and Congress commission in charge of evaluating the administration of justice in Peru.

Vega refused to receive the commissioners because he deemed "unacceptable" both the preliminary report approved by the commission and a letter sent to him by former U.S. Ambassador George Brayshaw asking him to receive the delegation. The minister said the commission, headed by jurist Robert Goldman, reported that the laws in question remained in effect "even though the commission was appropriately informed that the laws had been effectively invalidated." As for Brayshaw's letter, the minister said "it contained inadmissible terms for any sovereign nation," but he did not provide more detail.

The human rights situation in Peru improved significantly in 1993, the National Human Rights Coordinating Board reported this week. But it did ask the government to rectify several legal norms for fighting terrorism, which in its opinion have led to an "alarming" number of arbitrary arrests. These laws constitute "a source of permanent human rights violations," the National Human Rights Coordinating Board also indicated.

The Peruvian Human Rights Association reported on 2 January that the number of arrested or missing people in 1993 "continued to be extremely high," with 87 cases, of which only 20 have been cleared up.

Relations To Be Resumed With Canada

PA1401022894 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Jan 94

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] Canada will resume bilateral relations with Peru, which were suspended on 5 April 1992. The announcement was made by Christine Stewart, the Canadian minister of state for Latin America and Africa.

At a news conference the ranking Canadian official said that her trip to Peru has allowed her to confirm the current situation in the country. She said she is pleased with the progress the country has made in the area of economics and especially in the area of human rights. She pointed out that the Canadian Government is willing to resume bilateral relations with Peru, which were interrupted following the self-inflicted coup on 5 April 1992, and to resume providing social aid for extremely poor sectors of the population.

[Begin Stewart recording] Our presence in Peru, which has always remained at the same levels in the past, focuses on programs to provide aid especially for the poor of this country. Overall human development and sustained growth are priorities for my government. [end recording]

Christine Stewart said that Canadian businessmen are quite interested in investing in Peru which, evidently, would contribute to the country's development.

[Begin Stewart recording] Private Canadian businessmen can also invest here for the improvement of Peru and also to maintain advantages for Canada. [end recording]

Roundup of Economic Reports Through 13 Jan

PY1301174594

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Peru monitored through 13 January.

The Lima stock exchange registered a 150 percent increase in 1993 after a 1992 increase of 273 percent. The stock exchange's profit was 79 percent higher than the inflation rate, which represents the best investment in the financial market. Specialists said this was the result of the major participation of foreign investment, which totalled 70 percent. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 3 Jan 94 p A24)

The legislative branch issued 16 decrees on the implementation of a new tax system by which all taxes were reduced to only 12: six for the central government and six for the local ones. This system was in force beginning 1 January. (Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 4 Jan 94 p B2)

The National Exporters Association reported that the Peruvian trade balance registered a $532 million deficit with exports at $3.467 billion and imports at $3.999 billion. Exports totalled $3.484 billion in 1992. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 3 Jan 94 p A24)

Venezuela

Reaction to Institution of Value-Added Tax

Caldera To Seek Suspension

PA1301003594 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 12 Jan 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] President-elect Rafael Caldera has insisted he will do everything possible to fulfill his electoral promise of suspending the controversial value-added tax [VAT].

Caldera made this statement during a ceremony in his honor given by members of the Venezuelan Academy of Language. The ceremony was also attended by Venezuelan President Ramon J. Velasquez and other representatives from the Executive and Judicial Branches. Rafael Caldera pointed out that as soon he starts his administration, he will present several proposals to the new parliament in an effort to make the VAT more just.

[Begin Caldera recording] I hope Congress will accept this. I have heard that some groups seem to be interested in learning more about my proposal and in accepting it in principle. I hope this will be the case. [end recording]

When consulted about the possibility of dismissing charges against the individuals involved in the massacre at El Amparo, the president-elect emphasized that the current government should be very careful in this respect.

President, President-Elect Comment

PA1301194994 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 11 Jan 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] For President Ramon J. Velasquez, as well as for President-elect Rafael Caldera, the imposition of price controls on family basket products comes in response to a public plea. The fixing of prices on 10 family basket products via price controls does not imply, in President Ramon J. Velasquez's opinion, that a step backward will be taken in the process of modernizing our economy. This measure is an attempt to halt speculation.

Meanwhile, on this same subject, President-elect Rafael Caldera said the measure should be temporary, and he explained that in his government taxes will have to be paid. Nevertheless, the idea is to get those who have more to pay more and not for those who have less to pay more.

Asdrubal Batista, economic adviser to Caldera, also commented on the VAT and price control issues. For Batista, the VAT is part of a tax system that unfortunately lacks fairness, and, therefore, in his opinion, the whole tax system should be totally reformed.

Here is what President Velasquez said:

[Begin recording] [Velasquez] Speculation has become widespread and therefore it is the government's duty, as indicated by law, to take steps necessary to protect the consumers—in other words, the majority of the people. In the coming months, a number of reforms will have to be passed by parliament. It is not that we will be taking a step backward in the economy's modernization process. No, not at all—no one is thinking such a thing. Venezuela cannot step backward, because those conditions of fiscal abundance in which everything was subsidized and everything was protected was a situation of false harmony that no longer exists. Unfortunately, this situation no longer exists. [video cuts to interview with President-elect Rafael Caldera]

[Caldera] We want those who can pay more to pay more, while not placing a heavy burden on those who have less and, in turn, can pay less.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think that this can be done?

[Caldera] There is apparently willingness to implement the measures necessary to save the fiscal deficit and to orient the nation's economy. This economy should not be inflationary in order to allow the necessary stability to develop. [video cuts to interview with Caldera adviser Asdrubal Batista]

[Batista] It is regretful that currently those who have less are paying more proportionately than those who have more. This is what economists call a (?regressive tax)—that is, an implicit imbalance in the direct tax collection system. This situation must be corrected, otherwise problems will occur over and over again. In short, accounts cannot be paid, expenses cannot be met, public services deteriorate completely, and the people feel general dissatisfaction because the state is not meeting its commitments. There is a law of dimension, and I think it is as follows: The state must allocate funds for its expenditures, and at the same time these disbursements must be permanently and cleanly financed through taxes paid by the community. [end recording]

All concurred that it is the next parliament that must assess the extent of the changes the nation has experienced and take appropriate action.

Caracas Mayor: VAT 'Unconstitutional'

PA1301175494 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 12 Jan 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Today, Caracas Mayor Aristobulo Isturiz presented a request for annulment of the VAT law to the political and administrative division of the Supreme Court of Justice because he feels it is unconstitutional. He will also present a writ of amparo calling for the suspendion of the VAT collection in his jurisdiction while the Supreme Court issues a ruling.

According to Mayor Isturiz, the law is unconstitutional because tax issues are the exclusive responsibility of the national Congress and therefore its approval cannot be delegated to others. In addition, modifications to the tax system should be done in a progressive manner and not the way it has been done.

Congressman Wants Reform

PA1301175694 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 12 Jan 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Congressman Reinaldo Cervini has pointed out that the VAT is a regressive and unconstitutional measure that must be reformed.

[Begin Cervini recording] Measures, such as price controls, just seek to please the people for the time being. If there was really a serious interest in controlling prices, the correct thing to do would have been to regulate bank interests as well as the costs of electricity, telephones, and transportation. In addition, measures should have been taken to control the prices businessmen pay for Central Bank bonds, and this would then lead to a just control of prices.

What is being done now will bring negative consequences for the national producers. The measure is strictly to please the people, but it is not being handled properly. [end recording]

2 Die in 'Violent' Protests Against Transport Price Hike in Barcelona

PA1401011194 Paris AFP in Spanish 0005 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Text] Barcelona, Venezuela, 13 Jan (AFP)—Reporters have confirmed that two persons were killed and many were arrested during violent disturbances on Thursday following a massive protest against the increase in transportation rates in Barcelona, 200 km east of Caracas.

This is the first wave of violence to take place this year in Venezuela, where a new tax has increased consumer products by 10 percent.

According to witnesses, the disturbances began when the police fired shots and used tear gas against a "peaceful" demonstration of residents who had blocked traffic on an important avenue. The people were protesting the hike in public transportation rates in effect since late December. The reports add that two persons were wounded—one by bullets—during the clash. A grocery truck on the outskirts of Barcelona was looted and there were attempts to loot some stores in the downtown area, but the police stopped them.

Although it was a people's protest, University of Oriente students expressed solidarity with the protest and burned a city bus.

At 1900 (2300 GMT) there still were serious traffic jams throughout the city.

Colombia Border Troops Placed on Alert

PA1201214394 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 10 Jan p 34

[Article by Jose Ramon Diaz]

[Text] The border problems of the past few days, of which one of the nations' four military bodies has directly suffered the consequences, have forced the National Guard [GN] High Command, led by General Commander Pedro Jose Romero Farias, to declare a state of emergency. At the same time, he alerted his troops and ordered them to mobilize toward the different security areas bordering Colombian territory.

The GN's decision is due to the recent increase of border problems, and according to the GN high command, there is no quick solution in sight. Apparently, Colombian authorities are not willing to cooperate in finding solutions to the problem. On the contrary, they have accused the GN of raiding their territory, thereby violating, according to their story, their territorial integrity. What occurred three days ago is the best example. On Friday, at approximately 1200, a GN commission was implementing an intensified border patrol program in the southwest region when their aircraft, a Bell Ranger 212 helicopter with registration No. GN-8008, was downed by a group of Colombian rebels. Nevertheless, the Colombian authorities accused the GN of violating their airspace.

According to the Venezuelan aircraft pilots' story, GN Commander Manuel Bompart Pinango and GN Major Jesus Lozano Guanipa, accompanied by six soldiers—one of whom was wounded, 2d Corporal Yasmin Jaimes Canas—were patrolling the security strip. Suddenly, Colombian guerrillas moving about in Venezuelan territory attacked the unit. The missiles hit the tail rotor forcing the aircraft to crash to the ground, thereby destroying the equipment. Fortunately, no human lives were lost. The rebels' attack took place exactly 500 meters from Hato El Tormento and approximately 10 km from the border checkpoint El Cututi on the banks of the Arauca River.

Given this case as well as others on other occasions, the GN high commanders believe the border problem with Colombia is becoming more and more intolerable. To begin with, the region is not secure. There is no way to prompt Colombian authorities to plan and carry out actions with Venezuela to guarantee territorial integrity on this side of the border. Therefore, guerrillas, kidnappers, and drug traffickers are having a heyday in this region, specifically in the Paez District, the Apure State, and in the autonomous municipalities of Catatumbo and Colon in Zulia State.

Meanwhile, according to authorities, the GN has been the target of a campaign to discredit them in recent months.

This campaign has been stepped up recently not only by rebels who operate in the security areas, but also by Colombian authorities, who do not hesitate to accuse GN members of attacking Colombia's territorial integrity.

Given this serious situation in which a satisfactory solution has not been reached with the Colombia authorities, the GN high commanders, with prior authorization from their superiors, issued a general alert order to all commands in border security areas. Simultaneously, as a support operation, troops have been deployed in the region bordering Colombia.

Division General Pedro Jose Romero Farias, GN general commander, confirmed that all the commanders on the border have, in effect, been issued a "general alert" order. In addition, military personnel have been deployed to the region to control attacks by Colombian rebels.

Romero Farias said: "We will combat these irregular actions without any hesitation. We will also defend, however, the GN's honor, considering the GN has been the target of a campaign to discredit it by bandits who now feel cornered as a result of the operations carried out by the GN."

Meanwhile, it was learned at Fort Tiuna that Army commands have stepped up their action in the Joint Task Force mission. These are contingents that jointly execute military operations to guarantee Venezuela's territorial integrity. Within this framework, their task is to combat and wipe out the presence of Colombian rebels and combat other crimes, among which are drug trafficking, contraband, and common crimes that constantly disrupt the peace and prevent normal socioeconomic development in the region.

The Army's idea with the so-called Joint Task Force is to create an atmosphere of security for the people in the area and to combat guerrilla activity—that is, to minimize the Colombian guerrillas' presence as well as their activities, reduce the number of kidnappings, increase the Armed Forces' prestige in the region, and preserve sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Given these incidents on the border, Army Div. Gen. Alberto Emerich Esqueda Torres, permanent secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, announced yesterday the new border security arrangements will definitely be made known this week. It is very possible, he added, that President Ramon J. Velasquez will disclose the decree's details. It is also possible the president will speak to the governors and cattle ranchers of those regions in the province that borders other nations. After these talks, President Velasquez will make the final decision on whether or not to issue a decree regarding border security areas.

Precisely because of the course of events on the nation's borders, a group of experts from the Institute of Higher Studies on National Defense, directed by Vice Admiral Mario Ivan Carratu Molina, traveled to the western region—specifically to the Falcon, Zulia, Tachira, and Apure States. Pompeyo Marquez and Leandro Area from the Negotiating Commission on Border Matters with Colombia; Jose Rodriguez Iturbe, president of Congress' Foreign Policy Commission; and other personalities are also participating in this mission.

According to Carratu Molina, the mission's goal in these areas is to verify important political, economic, social, and military aspects within the security and defense framework. Carratu Molina said: "At each of the sites to be visited, we will meet with the state governors, garrison commanders, and military unit and development corporation commanders of each region.

In Zulia State particularly, Army Brigade Gen. Romer Cumare Roa, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, and his staff will discuss the military situation on the state's border area with the mission. This situation is very critical because of constant attacks by Colombian criminals.

The Army's 2d Infantry Division brigadier general and GN Brig. Gen. German Valera Araque, chief of the GN's 1st Regional Command in Tachira State, were the ones who reported what was happening in the region.

The mission arrived at Guasdualito (Apure) and La Fria (Tachira) yesterday, where they toured the border posts and visited the corresponding military units.

Prisoner Exchange Agreement Signed With Colombia

PA1201225394 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 12 Jan 94

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Venezuela and Colombia this morning signed a bilateral treaty on the repatriation of prison inmates. The agreement, proposed by Venezuela, will allow approximately 1,500 Colombian inmates to return to their country and finish serving there the sentences ordered by Venezuelan courts.

Eighteen months after the agreement to allow prisoners to go to Colombia was presented, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich and Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio today signed the final document.

The agreement calls for the transfer of prisoners, provided they have been sentenced by the courts. Of the 2,800 Colombian prisoners in Venezuelan jails, only 1,500 qualify under the agreement. Nonetheless, the agreement is voluntary, which means that both Venezuelans and Colombians will be able to choose if they want to be repatriated or not to their country of origin.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.